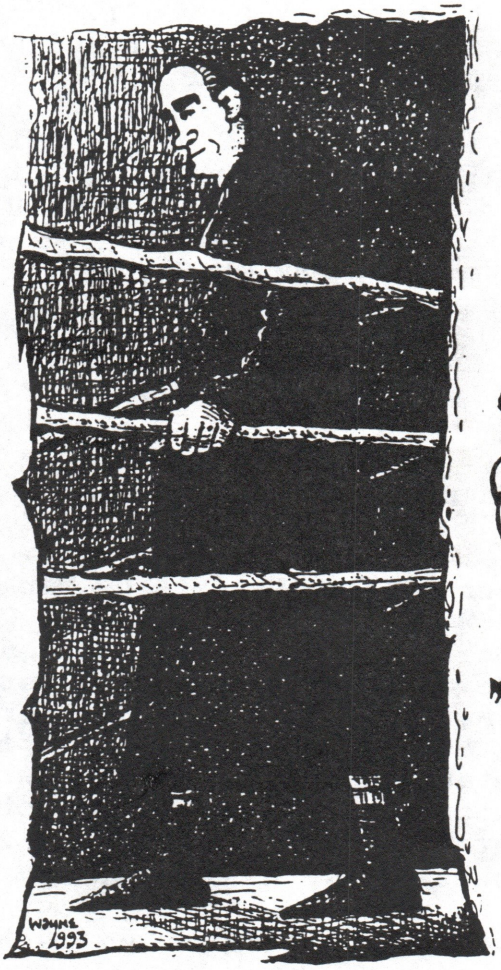
# WRESTLING THEN & NOW

Evan Ginzburg - Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 640471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

LOUIS THESZ



LOU THESZ

## WRESTLING THEN & NOW 1994 ANNUAL

**Featuring the Lou Thesz interview!**

**$8.00**

# INTRODUCTION: THE 1994 WRESTLING- THEN & NOW ANNUAL
## EDITED BY: EVAN GINZBURG

Welcome to WT&N's third annual. I am particularly proud of this edition as we present an interview and tribute with the legendary Lou Thesz. Lou knows more about professional wrestling than literally any man alive, and has known every world champion except four dating back to the Gotch era. What better individual to talk about wrestling then and now? Also in this volume, Too Cold Scorpio speaks his mind, Mike Lano brings us back in time in an exclusive 70's interview with The Grand Wizard and Slammers' Verne Langdon displays his wit, wisdom (and anger!).

Also featured are the mighty Funk clan of Amarillo, as well as pieces on unsung Arizona and England (and who better than British born promoter Gordon Scozzari to bring it to you?). Mark S. Hewitt's piece on early Black wrestlers is also thoroughly researched and unique. Add dozens of rare clips, my own memories, merchandise listings and wrestler Wayne St. Wayne's artwork and I think we have 60 pages that'll bring back the "good old days" and give you an insider's view of the wild world of pro wrestling.

Thanks to all who contributed and of course all who purchased a copy. If you're new to WT&N, I hope you'll join us each month as we explore the sport's rich history. Subscription rates are listed below. As always, your feedback is appreciated and encouraged.

Without further ado, enjoy!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS


| PAGE # | |
|---|---|
| COVER | Lou Thesz by Wayne St. Wayne |
| 2- | Introduction/Table of contents |
| 3-5 | Evan Ginzburg's Memories |
| 6-12 | Pioneer Black Wrestlers by Mark S. Hewitt/Black Wrestlers Tribute |
| 13 | WBAI-FM Wrestling Radio Press Release |
| 14-15 | Arizona Wrestling by A. Nonymous |
| 16-20 | Inside British Wrestling by Gordon Scozzari |
| 21-25 | The Amarillo Territory by Peter Shandorff |
| 26-28 | Sheet & Fanzine Reviews & Listings by Evan Ginzburg |
| 29-35 | An Interview with Slammers' Verne Langdon by Ms. Billie Jessie |
| 36-43 | An Interview with Too Cold Scorpio by Eddie Goldman |
| 44-45 | An Interview with The Grand Wizard (1970's) by Dr. Mike Lano |
| 46-58 | An Interview with Lou Thesz by Ginzburg/Goldman/Fred Geobold |
| 59 | WT&N Back Issue List |
| BACK | Johnny Valentine by Wayne St. Wayne |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# GINZBURG'S MEMORIES

Some of my wrestling memories didn't occur in the ring, but rather outside of it. These are but a few.

## TERRY FUNK:

Aftermath of Terry vs. Ric Flair on Balt. PPV. We're standing outside the hotel where Funk was staying. Suddenly, here he comes. Shirtless, his bandaged head is oozing blood. A towel is draped across his shoulders and he's walking head bowed, utterly exhausted. Non-wrestling fans are literally staring, trying to absorb this bizarre spectacle. It reminded me of a scene out of a Sergio Leone spaghetti western when the hero (or in this case the "villain"!) rode into town. Permanently etched in my memory.

That same weekend Terry's hanging out with a bunch of fans and wrestlers on a street corner around 11 P.M., a beer bottle in each hand. "Who's your favorite wrestler?" he'd demand from everyone who asked for his autograph. When the correct answer ("Terry Funk," of course!) was given, he'd exhibit a big smirk and sign, "Best of luck to you and your friends."

An amazing guy...

## TERRY GORDY:

Former WT&N columnist Gary Fishman is one of the world's biggest Bam-Bam fans. Spotting him in a hotel lobby, he walks up to him and asks for an autograph.

"I'll catch you later," Terry says in his best, "I don't want to be bothered" tone.

Gary, not to be denied, says in all earnest, "But I love you!"

The 300 pounder stops, looks at him oddly, signs, and walks off.

As the theme music from the twilight zone was heard from a distance, I realized this was a truly surreal moment...

## ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

I'm sitting in the "press room" at a Goodhart card (basically meaning a bunch of sheet and magazine writers and photographers sitting on the floor outside the dressing room which was not accessible to us!). Abbie walks in, and I gape at his monstrous, frighteningly mutilated forehead. Seeing us sitting on the floor sans chairs, he looks annoyed at our supposed mistreatment and says, "Don't they have chairs for you f---ing guys?"

I marvelled at the fact that I was one of the rare few privileged to hear my hero speak, and came up with the most brilliant answer I could muster.

"No."

He walked into the dressing room, puffing on his big stogie, and later that night wrecked the building as usual.'

Another time, a bunch of hardcores including Fishman, Lemieux, Dan Reilly, and a few others spot Abbie in a hotel dining room at breakfast time. It's an all you could eat buffet, and we're sitting across the room, excitedly ready for a Guiness Book of World Records eating display by our favorite big man.

"He's going to put this place out of business!" we figured.

But as WE downed plate after plate of artery clogging goodies, the Butcher picked at his one dish. "The guy eats like a pigeon!" we sadly stated. And he didn't stab anybody in the head or break any furniture either.

All in all a major disappointment!

JACK VICTORY

Jack's in a hotel bar, drink in hand. A bunch of the hardest of hardcores imaginable approach for autographs. "You're not sheet guys are you?" he said with hostility clearly in his voice.

"No," we all answered in spite of the fact every single one of us there had either our own sheets, columns in the sheets, or subscribed to 27 of the buggers!

"Bullshit," he answered as he signed his life away.

BILLY GRAHAM & DUSTY RHODES

In the late '70's nobody (with the exception of maybe Andre) was as big a national draw as Dusty Rhodes.

In one sold-out MSG card, in which he faced Billy, we waited outside for autographs. Graham, the heel, was gracious, friendly and signed for a good 20 or so minutes. Rhodes, "the plumber's son," "The American Dream," etc., etc., walked out with Jack Brisco to the cheers of a dozen or so fans, mostly kids. They strolled by, and didn't so much as look at us as we asked for their precious signatures.

For some of us it was the first time we realized that "heroes could really be zeroes."

TIGER CHUNG LEE

Back when I was younger, I'd stand outside the hotels and collect autographs like a madman.

I spot Tiger Chung Lee, who at this point was a middle of the card guy that not too many people really cared all that much about.

This was going to be easy I said to myself as nobody else asked the sullen looking heel.

"Can I have your autograph?" I asked.

"No," he said abruptly.

This was going to require some coaxing I thought. Let me butter him up!

"But I've been a fan of yours ever since you were Kim Duk!"

He looked at me, and with all sincerity said, "I don't care."

I didn't have much of an answer to that one, and added him to the list headed by Mickey Mantle as one of the nastiest "celebrities" I'd ever encountered.

CACTUS JACK

Having been involved with the wrestling newsletters since the pre-Meltzer days, I always wonder how the guys in the biz think about them. Cactus is one who has always been supportive of our efforts.

"I want you to thank your friend Gary Fishman for me. He's the first guy who ever wrote anything nice about me in the sheets- in the Observer a few years back."

I thought it was a class touch from a decent guy.

KEVIN SULLIVAN

John Arezzi's convention 1993. The audience is welcome to ask questions of a celebrity panel, so I do my best.

"How do you feel about racial and ethnic stereotypes in wrestling?" I ask

Kevin Sullivan doesn't quite like the question.

"Stand up!" he tells me and I brace myself for what's coming.

I get up and a hundred or so people turn my way. I feel the blood rise to my head, and it's almost like there's a spotlight on me. To say I feel uncomfortable would be an understatement.

"I grew up in a tough Irish neighborhood in Boston..."
He goes on to say that he was called every name in the book, he called everybody else every name in the book, it didn't do him any harm, I'm overly sensitive, etc., etc., etc.

I was being "dissed" by one of my favorites!

I still felt it was a reasonable question, but nonetheless would have been grateful for a hole to crawl into had one been available.

Then something remarkable happened.

Konnan, who isn't one of my favorites, came to my rescue!

Mexico's biggest star defended my point of view, said it was unfortunate that stereotypes were used, and that he didn't appreciate promoters using racism to sell tickets (although he admitted it was a necessary evil at times). This led to 20 minutes of heated discussion.

Meanwhile, Eddie Goldman's whispering in my ear that it's totally appropro that the white wrestler reacted the way he did, and that the Mexican was more sensitive to the issue.

Nonetheless, I still wished I had asked a more traditional question like, "Where's the Ultimate Warrior?"

I was ever so grateful when I finally got to sit my embarrassed butt down.

MUHAMMED ALI

1989. Muhammed's standing outside a celebrity dinner in NYC. From a distance he is still a striking figure...tall, handsome, and without a trace of a gut. But as I get closer to him I notice the slowness of his movements. Each autograph he gives to the adoring mob is in what can best be described as slow motion. And the mouth that once roared is silent! I sense that it is too much of an effort for him to speak.

I hand him an old Madison Square Garden program and the cover has him measuring hand size with Andre the Giant. In the photo he feigns fear as his fingers are dwarfed within Andre's monstrous grasp. Before he signs, he laughs at the old photo.

I feel very good for a second. Then I remember the Ali of old, the Ali in that picture and I feel so very, very sad.

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**THE BRUNO SAMMARTINO RECORD BOOK 118** Pages is available for **$12.00 plus $3.00 postage and handling (US). Add $6.00 postage for Europe.** Spiral bound , just ***newly*** updated, thanks to the members who sent us more results to add to what we already had. A colored photo cover, a ***must*** for all Bruno Sammartino **fans**

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**CAR SIGNS (WRESTLING FAN ON BOARD)** still available for $1.00 plus 52 cents for postage and handling in USA and $1.00 postage for Europe. (Yellow and Black)

**PIONEER BLACK WRESTLERS**

by Mark S. Hewitt

Wrestling was an important part of African tribal life. Often the right to marry a chieftain's daughter would be won in a wrestling match. Africans carried their love of wrestling along with them when they were brought to America as slaves. Wrestling had long been a part of the Native American culture, and was an equally popular pastime among the European settlers and frontiersman. Wrestling contests, along with shooting, running and horse racing, were always part of early American holiday celebrations and County Fairs. The wrestlers would compete for prizes, such as a rifle or a hat. The blacks held their own wrestling matches concurrent with the white festivities. As professional wrestling began to develop in the post-Civil War era, blacks were counted among the earliest professional wrestlers. The most famous was Viro "Black Sam" Small.

Small was born in Beaufort, South Carolina, and was working in a New York City slaughterhouse when he made his debut on the wrestling circuit in 1870. "Black Sam" continued as a pro wrestler until 1892. Among his credits was winning the Vermont State collar-and-elbow style Championship.

Collar-and-elbow style wrestling, or "scuffling", was brought to America by Irish immigrants and became very popular in New England in the mid-1800's. During the Civil War, it spread through the Union Army as a recreational pastime. A "Scuffling" bout began with both men facing each other with their right hand on each other's shoulder and their left hand gripping their opponent's elbow. A fall was won when one contestant threw the other to the ground pinning both shoulders and one hip. The style faded with the end of the 19th century, giving way to Greco-Roman and Catch-As-Catch-Can as the popular wrestling forms.

Another early black grappler was Charles Williams, who took part in an 1882 wrestling tournament sponsored by the Police Gazette.

Entering into the twentieth century, the first black wrestler to gain national recognition in the United States was Reginald Siki. Siki was an Ethiopian whose family immigrated to the U.S. in 1907. Siki, a natural athlete, excelled in several high school sports and learned to wrestle in the local YMCA. He became a professional wrestler in 1923. Siki wrestled all over the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Cuba. Some of the all-time greats he met in the ring included Stanislaus Zbyszko, John Pesek, Dick Shikat and Jack Sherry. Siki also did some boxing and appeared as an extra in Hollywood movies. In 1928, he went to Europe where he became a mainstay in the wrestling tournaments held throughout the continent. Siki enjoyed Europe, where he was free to stay in any hotel and eat in any restaurant he pleased. He made regular forays back to America, but, for the most part, remained overseas until the outbreak of

**PIONEER BLACK WRESTLERS**
by Mark S. Hewitt
March 14, 1994

World War II in 1939. Back in the U.S., Siki continued wrestling right up until his death in 1950.

Contemporary with Siki's heyday were two brothers, "White" and "Black" Noble. They were proteges of the legendary Texas wrestler "Pet" Brown. "White" Noble was still active in the wrestling ring as late as 1929. In amateur grappling, Walter Gordon of the University of California was the fist well known negro matman. Gordon was the Pacific Coast Conference heavyweight champ from 1916 through 1918.

Joe Walcott, "the Barbado Demon", is best remembered as a champion welterweight boxer who "fought them all", from lightweights to heavyweights; but he began his ring battles as a wrestler. Walcott was born in 1873 in the West Indies, ran away from home aboard a ship as a cabin boy, and ended up working in a Boston restaurant. He spent his spare time in Sheehan's gym, where he took up both boxing and wrestling. At 5'1-1/2" tall, this "sawn-off Hercules" won both the New England lightweight and middleweight amateur grappling titles in one night. At age 17, in 1890, Walcott started boxing professionally and was quickly recruited to join Tom O'Rourke's troupe, which included George Dixon. O'Rourke's group, and similar troupes of wrestlers and boxers, barnstormed the countryside, appearing in vaudeville theaters, burlesque houses, carnivals and fairs. Walcott's premiere appearance with O'Rourke involved offering $25 to any man who could wrestle him for 15 minutes without being thrown. Three 200-pounders took up the challenge and Walcott tossed them all, one after another, in under ten minutes.

Jack Johnson, the controversial heavyweight boxing champion, did some wrestling during his "exile" in Europe in 1913, and again in Mexico in 1919. In 1925, pro wrestling impresario Jack Pfefer attempted to push Johnson into a big-time mat career, but they separated over financial disagreements. Johnson made one last wrestling tour in 1934 in England. Another ex-boxing champion who attempted a pro wrestling career was Joe Louis in the 1950's. Louis' health was bad, and he didn't last long in the grappling game.

One boxer who had more success on the mat than Johnson or Louis was big George Godfrey. Godfrey's real name was Feab S. Williams, and he hailed from Alabama. He stood 6'3", weighed 260 pounds, and was very powerfully built. Godfrey boxed professionally from 1920 to 1937. Out of 100 official fights, he won 76 by knockout, losing fourteen, six of them by foul. Godfrey's greatest fame came from being Jack Dempsey's favorite sparring partner. During his championship days, the ferocious Dempsey went through sparring

**PIONEER BLACK WRESTLERS**
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partners faster than they could be replaced. Big George was recruited to go through the paces with "Tiger Jack" in 1923. Godfrey stood up to everything Dempsey could throw his way. It was also suspected the Dempsey camp used Godfrey as a "policeman" to scare off unwanted challengers. In early 1931, Godfrey made a tour to Mexico City as a wrestler. He won fourteen straight matches and was deemed ready for the U.S. mats.

Godfrey made his debut March 9, 1931, in Newark, New Jersey. Big George entered the ring wearing a broad-brimmed sombrero and a poncho. His opponent was John Grandovich. Grandovich was a veteran wrestler, but couldn't match strength with Godfrey. He was body-slammed into defeat by the boxer in a little over seventeen minutes. On July 13th of the same year, up in Toronto, Godfrey wrestled Stanley Stasiak, then put on the gloves and boxed George Gemas. He was pinned in the wrestling bout, but knocked out Gemas in the second round. Always popular with fans, Godfrey maintained a duel career as both a wrester and a boxer throughout the 1930's. Among the titles he held were the Negro Heavyweight Boxing Championship, the International Boxing Championship (won in Paris), and the Negro Heavyweight Wrestling Championship. Godfrey won the latter crown in New Orleans by beating "Seal" Harris in 1938. When George Godfrey died in 1945, Jack Dempsey paid his funeral expenses and delivered his eulogy.

Other black pro-wrestlers in the 1930's included "Tiger Flowers" Johnstone, Zimba Parker and Nick "King Kong" George. They were followed in the ensuing years by the likes of Woody Strode, Bobo Brazil, Sailor Art Thomas, "Bearcat" Wright, Jim Mitchell, Tiger Conway and "Sweet Daddy" Siki.

Blacks have been involved in professional wrestling throughout its long and storied history. Back in the 20's and 30's, wrestling and boxing were the only professional sports where blacks could compete with whites. Unfortunately, there was racial injustice, and blacks were often refused the title shots they deserved. However, it is fairly well known that the "fighting sports" were far more open to black athletes in comparison to major league baseball of the same era.

*Cauliflower Alley Club*

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MEMBERSHIP

# Godfrey Pins His Foe Down In Fast Time

## Throws Grandovitch in 17½ Minutes—Calza and Judson Draw

George Godfrey, colored heavyweight boxer, who has taken up wrestling, last night made his first American mat appearance in a match with John Grandovitch at the Armory. Godfrey won in 17 minutes 30 seconds. The promoters announced the attendance as 4,500.

Godfrey slapped his opponent three times with an open right hand, which dazed Grandovitch. Then Godfrey picked his man up with a crotch hold and slammed him to the canvas, and the match was over. Grandovitch knew considerably more than Godfrey about the fine points of the game, but he couldn't match strength with the one-time heavyweight boxer.

The contest produced excitement when Grandovitch injudiciously attempted to box with Godfrey. There were few real holds, but plenty of mauling. Godfrey appeared in the ring wearing a broad-rimmed Mexican sombrero and blanket thrown across his shoulders.

George Calza, Italian favorite, and Frank Judson, former Harvard wrestling coach, went to a 30-minute draw. Calza, giving his usual clean, clever exhibition, appeared to have an edge on Judson, who forced George to the limit. Judson applied a number of hard headlocks and toe holds, but Calza retaliated with wrist locks, arm locks and leg spreads. It was the most interesting bout on the card from a wrestling standpoint.

### Sherry Wins.

Jack Sherry and Demetre Demitroff of Russia met in another go and the latter lost a fall to Sherry in 8 minutes 15 seconds, a crotch hold and body slam turning the trick. Sherry was entirely too smart and aggressive for his opponent.

Carlos Henriquez of New York, former Seton Hall and Columbia wrestler, defeated Bill Weston in 22 minutes 50 seconds, with a series of flying mares. Henriques outclassed his man, a head scissors weakening the veteran Weston. Otto Huthanen downed Tony Felice in 9 minutes with a headlock. This was a most amusing bout, crowded with action, and the crowd liked it. Felice supplied the comedy and the rangy Huthanen the science.

Bill Demetral, who was scheduled to wrestle Sherry, met Gene Bruce instead, and won in 8 minutes 36 seconds, with an airplane whirl. Joe Lustig refereed the bouts.

3/10/31 Newark

# *Godfrey Wins at Boxing, But Loses at Wrestling*

TORONTO, July 13 (AP).—George Godfrey, Leiperville, Pa., worked at both his trades—wrestling and boxing—tonight and wound up all even.

Big George was thrown by Stanley Stasiak of Poland in 11:43, but not long afterward Godfrey returned to his first love, boxing, and stopped George Gemas, Philadelphia, in 1:22 of the second round. 7/14/31

5/5/26

John Pesek--rival of Reginald Siki!

PRESS RELEASE

WRESTLING- THEN & NOW'S RACISM IN WRESTLING ISSUE (12/92)

EVAN GINZBURG
EDITOR-
WRESTLING- THEN & NOW
PO BOX 471
OAKLAND GARDENS STATION
FLUSHING, N.Y. 11364

Professional wrestling, although considered a "farce" by much of the mainstream media, nonetheless reaches millions of people each week through dozens of television programs and live arena events. As today's product is geared toward children and teens, these athletes therefore serve as role models to the youth of this country. Unfortunately, wrestling is blatantly racist with black wrestlers generally portrayed as pimps, cannibals, evil voodoo priests, and every other outrageous stereotype imaginable.

With the special December issue of Wrestling- Then & Now, we interview a half dozen wrestlers on racism as they encountered it. Their comments are heartfelt and powerful. Current world champion Ron Simmons, Teddy Long, Abdullah, Pez Whatley, Mando Guerrero and Gerhardt Kaiser speak their minds on this urgent subject. Several articles also focus on this ongoing problem.

The release date for this issue is 12/1/92 and can be purchased for $1.25 at the address above. Checks should be payable to Evan Ginzburg. Yearly subscription rates are $15.

I am, of course, available for interviews to promote this project and thank you in advance for your support in getting the word out.

CANADA

THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 1959

# Pro. Wrestling

**FIRST BOUT**
One Fall, 20-Minute Time Limit
**AL 'KRUSHER' KORMAN**
Toronto (225)
vs.
**MIKE VALENTINO**
Malta (260)

**SECOND BOUT**
One Fall, 20-Minute Time Limit
**WALLY SIEBER**
Toronto (238)
vs.
**ABE ZVONKIN**
Hamilton (236)

**THIRD BOUT**
One Fall, 30-Minute Time Limit
**FRED ATKINS**
Australia (248)
vs.
**JOHNNY FOTI**
Hamilton (234)

**THIS BOUT**
One Fall, 30-Minute Time Limit
**ILIO DIPAOLO**
Italy (245)
vs.
**LENNY "BULL" MONTANA**
Bronx, N.Y. (246)

***INTERMISSION***

**MAIN BOUT**
One Fall, to a Finish
**BOBO BRAZIL**
Alabama (275)
and
**BEARCAT WRIGHT**
Nebraska (270)
vs.
**GENE KINISKI**
Edmonton (275)
and
**FRITZ VON ERICH**
Germany (268)

# WRESTLING in chattanooga

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

August 13, 1977

United States Hvwt. Title Match
THE SHEIK, champion
vs.
PISTOL' PEZ WHATLEY

Grudge Lumberjack Match
Bronx, New York Brawl
No. Time Limit or Disqualification
JACKIE & ROUGHHOUSE FARGO
vs.
RIPPER COLLINS & LUKE GRAHAM

Coal Miner's Match
COWBOY FRANKIE LANE
vs.
GYPSY JOE

Grudge Tag Battle
Samoans' $300 VS Either Tojo or Gulas leave town
TOJO YAMAMOTO & GEORGE GULAS
VS
THE SAMOANS, TIO & TAPU

CHIEF THUNDERCLOUD VS JOEY ROSSI

RAY CANDY VS HANK STANLEY

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5-8-57 L.A.

# Mat Victory to Brazil

Bobo Brazil took two out of three falls from Sky Hi Lee before 6000 fans in the non-televised wrestling main event at the Olympic Auditorium last night.

After Lee took the first fall in 12:27 with a Judo chop and face lock, Bob scored in 8:31 with a running bulldog headlock.

Brazil was later counted out, protested, and was allowed to continue. Sky Hi smacked Brazil around while Bobo was outside the ring, and the referee gave the match to Brazil in 8:19.

Shag Thomas took two out of three falls from Paul Vaillaiqeon.

BIG-TIME
# WRESTLING
## SUNDAY NITE!

DOWNTOWN
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9 SUPER BIG BOUTS

DOUBLE MAIN EVENT
BoBo Brazil-VS-Killer Brooks
Pampero Firpo-VS-Fred Curry

SPECIAL GRUDGE MATCH
Ben Justice-VS-The Stomper

Bearcat Wright-VS-Kabooki

TAG TEAM
Tony Marino and Thunderbolt Patterson VS Von Hess and Von Shetz

Mighty Igor-VS-Frankie Laine

WOMEN WRESTLERS
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# WRESTLING

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MAIN EVENT
U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
BRUNO SAMMARTINO
ERNIE LADD
VS
TARZAN TYLER
OX BAKER

GA. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
RAY CANDY
VS
THE ASSASSIN

WORLD LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
THE GOLDEN GLADIATOR
VS
ARGENTINA APPOLLO

BRASS KNUCKS CHAMPIONSHIP
ROCK HUNTER vs EL MONGOL

GA. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
TOMMY SEIGLER
SUPER GLADIATOR
vs
JACK ARMSTRONG
THE GREAT CORNELIO

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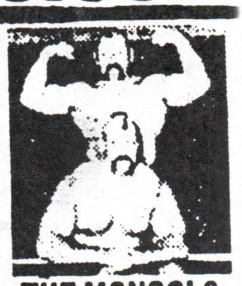
# WRESTLING

ANN GUNKEL, Promoter

## TONIGHT at 8:00!

SPECIAL CHALLENGE MATCH
ERNIE LADD &
THUNDERBOLT PATTERSON
VS
GETTO MONGOL
BOLO MONGOL



THE MONGOLS

GA. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
RAY CANDY
&
EL MONGOL
VS
THE ASSASSIN #2
SUPER GLADIATOR

PLUS
RON PRITCHARD
JIM WILSON
OX BAKER
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PLUS 3 OTHER ALL-STAR MATCHES
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CITY AUDITORIUM

# Big TIME WRESTLING

## TONIGHT 7 P.M.

DOWNTOWN IMA AUDITORIUM

MAIN EVENT
(2 REFEREES)
BOBO BRAZIL
-vs-
KILLER BROOKS

1 STATE REFEREE!
SPECIAL GUEST REFEREE!

BIG CHRISTMAS SHOW
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EXCITING MIDGET WRESTLERS

TONY MARINO -vs- BEN JUSTICE
PAMPERO FIRPO -vs- COWBOY LANE
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2-3 Falls — 60 Minutes

— SEMIFINAL —
EL HALCON (250 lbs. Mexico) vs. GORGEOUS GINO (230 lbs. Houston, Texas)
2-3 Falls — 45 Minutes

— SPECIAL EVENT —
BRUISER BRODY (325 lbs. Albuquerque, N. M.) vs. TWIN DEVIL NO. 1 (220 lbs. Mexico)
1 Fall — 15 Minutes

— PRELIMS —
TWIN DEVIL NO. 2 (220 lbs. Mexico) vs. DON DIAMOND (230 lbs. Hollywood, Fla.)
BULLDOG BROWER (280 lbs. Baltimore, Md.) vs. JOSE LOTHARIO (245 lbs. Mexico City)
GARY YOUNG (240 lbs. Houston, Texas) vs. EL GRAN MARKUS (250 lbs. Mexico)
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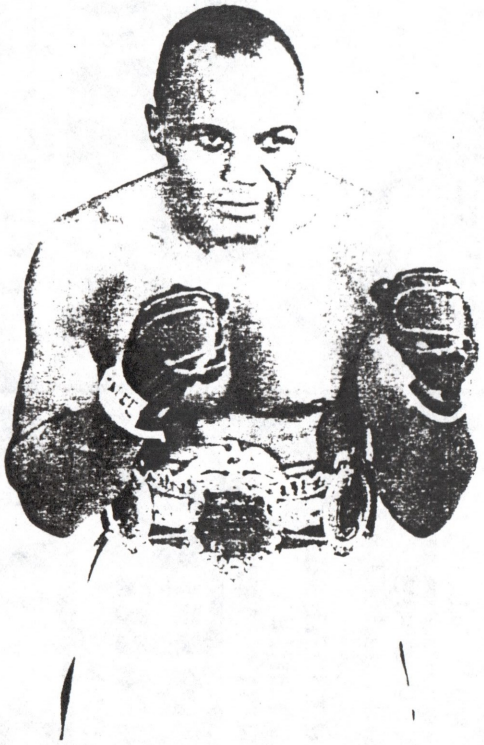

JERSEY JOE WALCOTT

Jersey Joe Walcott, former heavyweight boxing champion of the world, defeated Ezzard Charles for the title and after a reign of 14 months lost his crown to Rocky Marciano.

The nationally famous Walcott will lend atmosphere to tonight's wrestling card when he guest referees the Negro match.

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January 11, 1962 — Thurs., 8:30 p.m.

TRIPLE MAIN EVENT
Return Match
FLASH THOMAS vs. LITTLE BOBO
2 out of 3 falls - 60 min.
Special Guest Refereee for this match:
"JERSEY" JOE WALCOTT

TAG-TEAM MATCH
THE FABULOUS ZANGAROOS vs. VILMAR SNYDER & HENRY LASARTES
2 out of 3 falls - 60 min.

DAISY MAE vs. LILLY LA BLANCHE
(Time limit to be announced)

OPENER
FRANZ VON ERIC vs. ARMAND ROCCA
Time limit to be announced

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We saw the sensational debut last week of two colorful Negro wrestlers, Flash Thomas and Little Bobo, who thrilled the spectators with their wrestling talent. They stage a return match tonight by popular demand.

Neither man is very large. Bobo is in the vicinity of 5'8", approximately 190 lbs. It's easy to understand why he's called "Little" Bobo. To use a popular phrase, he's little but he's all there.

His opponent, Flash Thomas, is slightly larger and, therefore, more on the aggressive side. Perhaps he thought Bobo would yield more easily last week because he was at a disadvantage, but the bout turned out to be a draw, which shows that both men were well matched.

...and introducing in this corner, the sensational world's champion bubble-gum kid, the one, the only, the original Daisy Mae!

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# Lightshow

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Trinidadian political & social critic C. L. R. James was also a respected sportscaster. Indeed, he is credited with developing his cricket commentary into a metaphor for an entire civilization. What, then, might be an appropriate metaphoric model for a culture sustained largely by macho posturing and the unstated pretense that the game is not fixed?

WBAI's "Lightshow" is proud to present a weekly professional wrestling update. This five-minute report has been broadcast since October, 1992, and is New York's longest-running wrestling radio segment. It is hosted by Evan Ginzburg, editor and publisher of "Wrestling Then and Now," the dance theater form's oldest nostalgia and history newsletter. The segment features a summary of wrestling news, announcements of upcoming events, and commentary.

"Lightshow" also presents an expanded wrestling report on the last Friday of each second month. Featured have been interviews with superstars of the present and past, including Sherri Martel, Lou Thesz, Jim Cornette, Ox Baker, Gary Albright, Missy Hyatt, Paul E. Dangerously, Pez Whatley, Al Costello, and many others. Listener phone calls are taken as well. In addition, special interview segments have been featured on many weekly editions of "Lightshow" throughout the year, often coinciding with major wrestling events.

On the interview and phone-in segments, Evan Ginzburg is joined by Frederick GeoBold, host and producer of "Lightshow," Eddie Goldman, the New York producer of public access television's "Canvas Cavity," and Doctor Professor, Associate Professor of Theoretical and Applied Erudition (tenure pending), University of Infomania Junior College, and correspondent for the "Midnight Weekly Reader." These live, in-studio segments also cover wrestling from many angles, including serious analysis and discussion of important social issues related to wrestling, such as racial and ethnic stereotyping, insider news coverage, and a humorous look at the often wacky goings on in the world of wrestling.

To those who believe that the sport is merely rehearsed theatrics, we invite you to tune in and join an estimated 8,000 to 12,000 listener-fans who know that improvisation is a vital component of this beloved American art form.

*"Lightshow" is broadcast each Friday night/Saturday morning from 3:00 - 5:00 am. The weekly wrestling update is aired between 3:30 and 4:00 am. To inquire about arranging on-air interviews or for further information, contact Frederick GeoBold at (212) 279-0707, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.*

# Evening Program Guide — WBAI RADIO

## Friday

| | |
|---|---|
| **Light Show**<br>Frederick GeoBold<br>Brenda Black<br>Cathie Boruch<br>Evan Ginzberg<br>Eddie Goldman | 3:00<br>3:30<br>4:00<br>4:30<br>5:00AM |


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## ARIZONA WRESTLING ALLIANCE
By: A. NONYMOUS

This group ran in the early 80's in Arizona and New Mexico, supposedly promoted by Chuck Hondo and Eddie Sullivan. Look at the initials for Arizona Wrestling Alliance and you can see the fast one the office pulled in order to draw in people. They lasted a while, then went belly up, and a host of other Indie groups moved in, generally using the same crew- some of them most unusual.

YASHINOMI FUJI:

Actually not Japanese, but a Mexican wrestler named Mano Ortega. Few realize that in the 50's, the Japanese villains flooding the ring to represent the Yellow Peril were not true Japanese, but Hawaiian, Korean, Indian, or Mexican, using their features to pass off for a nationality which at the time promoted post-war hostility and heat. Kind of dumb to use the Bad Jap gimmick nearly 40 years later, and most stupidly with a "Japanese" everyone still recognized as Ortega, in spite of his shaved head. Once messed up throwing salt toward the ring during routine pre-bout salt throwing ceremony after which he and opponent Benny Mendeblis slipped on it and fell flat at the first tie up.

DANNY SNYDER:

A scrawny, yet talented kid who could have gone far had he been 40 pounds heavier. Screwed himself by leaving his trainer and rival promoter David Rose to join this group, only to see them fold one week after he defected to their side. Reportedly quit shortly afterward and moved to Chicago. Seldom won, due to his size, yet fast, agile, and effective.

MAD DOG MARCIAL BOVEE:

Then a young wiseass who relished putting himself and his weird angles over as a manager. Still around in Az., occasionally promoting, though now wrapped up in many things and wrestling only to tick his many detractors off. Now more busy battling sheet editors and those he felt have wronged him, in reality or his imagination. Also said to be a paranoid, unpredictable nut, not too unlike his former role and I for one believe it. Saw him in '80 when he started and in '82, then again this year and the change is obvious. Once terrified of fan attacks and unable to shoot his way out of a paper bag, now disillusioned and ready to lick the world, which he can't. At the '91 show, a fan threw an ashtray into the ring. he jumped into the ring, grabbed it, dashed across the apron and jumped into the fray of about 2 dozen angry fans, slugging it out with them. Once fascinating to watch, even hilarious. Now a real nut! Friction with sheets have gained him more notoriety. Is he good or bad? As a manager tremendous, as a wrestler, awful. Reportedly not taken with former friends Sergeant Shultz to Mexico, due to change in personality. The Shultz's felt, where security in Mexico is lax, the man would explode at the first thing thrown, start swinging, and get them all killed or jailed. No longer entertaining, but genuinely unpredictable. Also a good deal shiftier and cunning than he sounds or seems.

JOHN RINGER:

Real name John Wall or Wald, not sure which. Tall and not well built, but an outstanding heel, who used a macho biker gimmick. Called himself Machoman before Randy Savage used the gimmick and made it famous. Always bled in his matches, as he reportedly liked "juicing." The fans hated him with a pure passion. Had some wild bouts with this outfit and others, against Billy Anderson, Danny Snyder, and Chuck Hondo. Teamed with Outlaw Eddie Sullivan for a brief spell.

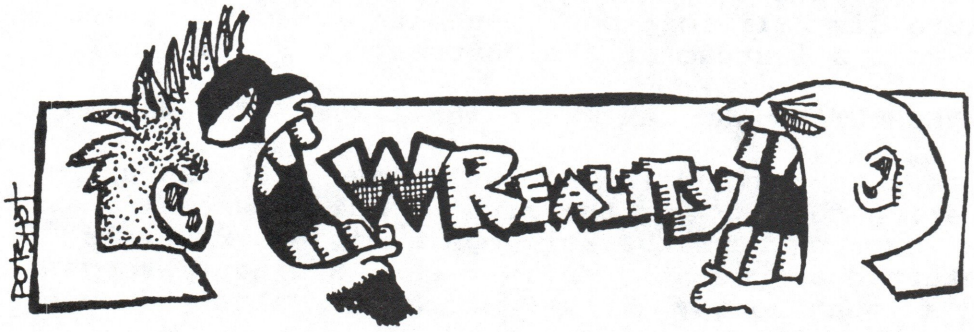
JEFF HODGE:

A Tempe, Az., cop who got into wrestling as a lark, due to his gigantic size. Big, slow, and not terribly talented, but he looked like a wrestler at least. Also called himself Goliath for a brief spell, something which did not endear him to fans who came expecting to see the famous bald one, the original Goliath, who in fact got wind of the ring name being stolen.

PHIL MELBY:

Prominent wrestler in the era of Jerry Graham. In fact a Graham protege. By this time, no longer active, yet a heavy behind the scenes man alongside Hondo and Sullivan. Just who was in charge, I was not aware of, as I was an outsider at the time, a mark with some smarts all of these people avoided or kay-fabed. A sinister looking cigar smoker, his real name was Paul Gotlieb. Jobs he held included stunt man and "train robber" at the old Legend City amusement park, aluminum siding salesman, and other do it yourself schemes which he made far more off of than his wrestling. He lost his tail as a promoter in this office too, but he had plenty of money to burn and still does.

DR. MIKE LANO'S




*Illustrator: Bill Kunkle*

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ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

The Wrestling Chatterbox, Wrestling Reality, Mat Marketplace, Wrestling- Then & Now, Chairshots and one or two other of the wrestling sheets currently publishing have combined forces for the first time to present the 1994 Wrestling Underground Annual. This is due out approximately October 1st and will be 60 pages packed with info/art/clips/interviews/listings etc. This is an historical first ever attempt to combine the best of the wrestling world in one very special package. Look for further details in WT&N and all the sheets listed above. This is going to be special & we'll keep all posted as we near completion of this project. The 1994 Wrestling Underground Annual is coming soon! Don't ya dare miss it!

## GREAT BRITAIN- WRESTLING'S FORGOTTEN TERRITORY
BY: GORDON SCOZZARI

In the pages of Wrestling- Then & Now over the years, one of the most common themes has been the change of style employed by today's wrestlers. Today's product is full of flash, highspots and elaborate gimmicks bearing little resemblance to the skill and technique of yesteryear. Most U.S. promotions would have you believe that this is the only product there is a market for: "The natural evolution of the business." Contrary to popular belief traditional wrestling is NOT dead, but alive and kicking in Great Britain.

Great Britain is the most underpublicized "territory" in the entire business. The average fan in the U.S. is unaware of its' very existence. The "hardcore" fans have been led to believe that the only wrestling that matters in England is what is done by the WWF & WCW on their tours. The gravest offender in this matter is the "great" Dave Meltzer. Mr. Meltzer is a man who can recite the names of every prelim Luchadore in Mexico, cover over twenty different Japanese promotions and print fictitious background information and attendance figures on independent promoters (myself included), but he won't give this great product the time of day. It's ironic that a man who berates other sheets for their lack of Mexican coverage is as guilty a culprit when it comes to Great Britain.

### BRITAIN VS. U.S.: THE BASIC DIFFERENCES

The major difference between British and American wrestling lies in the rules themselves. British wrestling is contested in rounds, each which last a duration of three to five minutes, and bouts are often the best two out of three falls.

Disqualifications are also handled differently. They are still based on rules infractions but it takes several to warrant an DQ. Each infraction is marked with a black card called a "Public Warning" and three of these will result in an immediate disqualification. Countouts are more liberal as wrestlers receive twenty-counts instead of the customary U.S. ten.

### AMERICAN & JAPANESE STARS WHO CAN TRACE THEIR ROOTS TO ENGLAND

BRET "HITMAN" HART: Was sent to England in the early '80s to brush-up on his technique before entering the WWF for the first time. He wrestled as an undercard babyface while learning from the Bulldogs among others. This favor was still being returned as recently as 1987 when Stu Hart brought over Davey, Dynamite and a young Johnny Smith to work the Calgary Stampede circuit.

DAVEY BOY SMITH: Davey started working in his late-teens under the name "Young David" continuing the tradition of British rookies being presented as showpieces for the big promoters such as Max Crabtree (who Davey works for today), Brian Dixon, Orig Williams (who I've worked for) and many others. Davey progressed to working for Otto Wanz in Germany, and Giant Baba in Japan before coming to the states and going on to great fame with the WWF. Unfortunately during his tenure with the WWF he bulked up to around 275 pounds and mainly relied on power moves. Recently, however, Davey has begun to show a lot more of his natural talent. During his stint in WCW he had several classic matches with Big Van Vader, in spite of whatever obstacles the office threw in his way.

## JAPANESE STARS SENT TO THE U.K.:

JUSHIN LYGER, AKIRA MAEDA, SATORU SAYAMA, TAKAYUKI IIZUKA

All of the above were sent to England to learn psychology and technique and bring it back to Japan. Lyger worked under the name "Flying" Fuji Yamada. Iizuka was billed as "Sambo" Iizuka and used as an opening match jobber. Sayama was "Sammy Lee" and Maeda, one of the greatest "shooters" (He learned it, having to deal with the language barrier) was billed as "Quick Kick Lee."

MAXX PAYNE: Darryl Peterson learned his exceptional mat skills in Europe under the name "Heavy-Metal" Buffalo Peterson, the guitar playing gimmick he brought to WCW in 1993.

BIG VAN VADER: Leon White is known to British fans as "Bull Power". During his AWA days he was awful, even with the help of the Gagnes and Brad Reinghans. He left Minnesota for Europe and evolved into a tremendous worker who main-evented Bremen, Germany before 10,000 fans. This brought him to the attention of Antonio Inoki and he was chosen for the Vader gimmick.

KAMALA: Worked in England in the early '80s under his real name, Jim Harris, feuding with Giant Haystacks in main-events. Often teamed with Big Daddy, taking on Haystacks and a variety of partners.

OWEN HART: Worked in England and Germany in the Mid-to-late '80s. He put on fantastic matches with David Finlay, Klaus Wallas, Franz Schumann, and the original Black Tiger- Mark Rocco.

## ENGLAND'S TOP TALENT TODAY:

DAVID FINLAY: The all-around best worker in the business today. Combines science with extremely realistic brawling. Dave is also a regular competitor in the New Japan Top of the Super Junior Tournament, this year pinning Lyger clean with a side-suplex.
* 7 time CWA Intercontinental Champion.
* 4 time British Middle-Heavyweight Champion.
* Originally from Belfast, Ireland, and is a second generation star.

GIANT HAYSTACKS: (Luke McMasters) The only man to legitimately knock-out Andre the Giant while on tour in Australia when Andre refused to sell for him or do the planned finish. Luke stands a legit 6'11 and weighs in excess of 600 pounds- the largest professional wrestler living today. Even with his tremendous weight he is able to execute leg-drops, elbow drops, running clotheslines, and chops that rival Ric Flair's. Haystacks was brought into the WWF in late 1988 as an emergency replacement for Andre when Andre was holding them up for more money. Andre panicked at this and quickly returned. An amusing side note: during a tag match in Great Yarmouths' Hippodrome Arena it was discovered that Haystacks was too heavy to stand on the ring apron. The solution? An elephant stand was brought out from the circus that was in the building the night before! Luke is still going strong today- even at the age of 57!

DANNY BOY COLLINS: England's equivalent to Brian Pillman. A master of shoot and savate kicks. The most popular wrestler in the country second only to Davey Boy Smith.

LORD STEVEN REGAL: Excellent mat wrestler was actually only a mid-card performer back in the U.K.. Mainly used to get heat on the top heels. Regal has now been saddled in an antiquated gimmick, but has been able to turn it into one of the few successful characters in WCW.

DYNAMITE KID: Tommy Billington has also returned to his roots, and to wrestling after a near-crippling back injury. He is now down to his original weight of about 185 pounds and is able to execute all of his signature maneuvers. Dynamite is recognized amongst his peers as one of the most influential and talented wrestlers of all-time.

KID McCOY: Master of the "Spider-walk"- A headscissors applied while McCoy "walks the ropes with his hands" then snapmares his opponent with his feet. Vastly underrated light-heavyweight star.

KENDO NAGASAKI: British wrestling is not totally immune to inane gimmicks. Kendo is a British-born wrestler in a mask who pretends to hypnotize his opponents into either beating themselves or turning on their tag partner.

CYANIDE SYD COOPER: Syd looks like an anorexic Bushwacker, and is billed as "The man with the face than can curdle milk!"

BIG DADDY: (Shirley Crabtree) Brother of promoter Max Crabtree and England's answer to Dusty Rhodes. He resembles a pregnant Dick Murdoch. Shirley has been wrestling for close to 50 years and first retired in the 1960s. A big favorite of the children, he enters the ring to his own circus like theme music, and proceeds to belly-bump his way to victory. Easily the most hated wrestler among the boys for his arrogance, ego, and need to be in control of the entire show.

## WWF & WCW INVASION

The WWF invaded England in the late '80s shortly after British wrestling lost its spot on the BBC. A wrestler named Mal "King Kong" Kirk died in the ring on live TV. He had a heart-condition and shouldn't have been allowed to wrestle. The WWF then swept in like a vulture and appeared on Sky-One (the top cable network) and started to tour. British fans were blown-away by the flashy production and the huge steroid-enhanced physiques. The younger generation flocked to the U.K. Rampage tours, and most have abandoned the home-grown product. However, the high prices for WWF tickets ($35) have left the local promotions with the traditional wrestling audience- the blue collar workers, and the old-time fans. The ticket prices today remain the cheapest outside of Puerto Rico at $8 and down. British posters are now collectors items, along with being the major source of advertising in every town. The streets and stores are lined with them and they are sold after each event for only $1 each. No wonder the people leave the local events with smiles on their faces, and WWF fans leave worried about how much money they just blew for (in the words of Skull Murphy), "A load of rubbish."

ARTICLE CONTINUES PG. 20

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| **JOHNNY KWANGO**<br>(King of the head butts) | V | **STEVE PEACOCK**<br>(Manchester) |
| **JACKIE TURPIN**<br>(Leamington Spa) | V | **YOUNG DAVID**<br>(Teenage sensation) |
| **MICK SULLIVAN**<br>(Havant) | V | **EDDIE RILEY**<br>(Salford) |
| **LUCKY GORDON**<br>(Ireland) | V | **'BLACK BELT' CHRIS ADAMS**<br>(Warwick) |

Our next presentation in this hall will be in April.
Watch local press and posters for details.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the appearance of those billed to appear on these programmes, the very nature of the sport makes any such guarantee impossible. The promoters cannot be held responsible for any change of programme, but will engage the best possible substitute whenever necessary. No films, photographs or recordings of any type may be taken from this hall.

Printed by Anglia County Press, West End, March.

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SOME QUOTES:

LUKE McMASTERS: (on WCW): "They come here, with a celebrity impersonator and a fake rapper, spend a hundred thousand of some mark's money and have to give away tickets to get people to come!"

EQUALIZER: (In WCW Magazine): "My favorite wrestler is "Fit" Finlay.

STEVE REGAL: "In WCW I learned how to act. In England I learned how to wrestle."

DAVE FINLAY: "If I couldn't wrestle, maybe I would dress like a clown or play dead, Yeah, that would be a brilliant counter to the figure-four or a tombstone piledriver."

I'll finish with the words of ex-wrestler turned announcer Mick McManus: "Forget all the glitz and glamour, British is best."

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT- GORDON SCOZZARI PRESENTS:
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**THE AMARILLO TERRITORY**
**BY: PETER SHANDORF**

The old Amarillo circuit was one of the first to develop in the television era, and one of the first to die out in the early 80's. Among the territories it was unique in many ways, not all of them appreciated by its workers. It covered a mammoth geographic area, at one time including the entire western half of Texas, all of New Mexico, and the southern half of Colorado. Within that huge chunk of America, the Amarillo group promoted in basically every town large enough to have its own tv tower. To put that in perspective, however, their biggest regular city was El Paso, which in 1970 had just 35,000 residents- and Amarillo had to share that market with Lucha Libre across the river! Albuquerque and Lubbock were the only other stops with populations exceeding 100,000 (and General Admission in minimum wage El Paso, was $1.00 or $1.50 in 1970). So, even with the most openhanded of promoters, what the wrestlers were looking at on this circuit (during the percentage of the gate era) was horrendous travel and miserable payoffs. To top it off, most of the arenas were literally rodeo barns and, according to wrestler Billy Hines, West-Texas-New Mexico fans were the worst anywhere, crazies with broken bottles and knives. In the ring, blading was practically invented here, and the action was intentionally shocking, as it had to be, since so many in the audience had up-close, personal knowledge of real-life violence!

On the more positive side, Amarillo and Lubbock were very unusual twenty or thirty years ago in that each town took a great deal of pride in being a major stop on the national wrestling map. During the seventies, both cities prominently included the business and the panhandle boys who were world superstars in their official histories. Imagine Detroit doing the same thing for The Sheik, or MSG acknowledging in the present time that there ever was a Bruno Sammartino, and you'll see how special this environment was, and is.

Its isolation made Amarillo the place where guys with "broken legs" went to keep working while the office in Minneapolis or Charlotte or Detroit built up the publicity for their return to action on their regular circuit. Larry Hennig, for example, was here during the time he was "recovering" from the broken leg Verne gave him in Winnipeg. This was where Pat Patterson went (to briefly become Lord Patrick) while Ray Stevens made his baby face turn to set up their feud in S.F. Another interesting characteristic of this circuit was the flock of Canadian and Great Lakes area wrestlers who came in during the autumn and left again in the spring, an annual occurence.

By the late 1960's, Cal Farley was the Holy Ghost of the circuit, a never-present personage who was repeatedly invoked in the most reverent terms, since he was the "father" of Dory Funk, Sr.'s career in Amarillo. Farley was originally from Verne Gagne's long-time stomping ground, Mound, Minnesota, and came to Texas in the depression era as a minor league baseball player. In those days, in small cities like Amarillo and Lubbock, the minors were major-league entertainment and the top players regional celebriites. Farley capitalized on his West-Texas baseball renown by wrestling in the same towns during the off-season and, by doing so, built what was essentially a territory for himself before the territorial system was really established nationwide. By the late 40's he was prominent enough to be singled out in John Gunther's best-selling "Inside USA" (1948) as the most notable Amarilloan. His Boy's Ranch, a western-wear version of Father Flanagan's Boys Town, which Farley bluntly admitted he hoped of originally as a tax dodge, was the inspiration for several other Boy's Ranches

and Girls' Ranches across the country, most of them associated with the wrestling business. Ironically, it was located on the site of the ghost town of Tascosa, an outlaw camp once ruled by Billy the Kid. Boy's Ranch was also who brought Dory, Sr. to Texas- as a supervisor. Farley also had him wrestling in Amarillo and Lubbock, and almost immediately, the local cards were being built around Dory. He influenced Funk's life in other ways, getting him started in ranching for one thing. The concept of patron is very important in Texas and Mexican mythology, and far from obscuring his debts to Farley, as another man, in another part of the country, might have done, Dory continued to push his connection to the grand old man (by then long absent from the promotion) with the tv audiences, newspapers, etc. right up to the end of his own life in 1973. He never did this in any exploitative or gimmicky fashion, either. It was always forthright, if off-handed, homage to a guy who'd done a lot for him and a reminder to younger local fans that wrestling- even in West Texas, didn't begin and end with the Funk family. Cal Farley may also be the only wrestler in America with a throughfare named after him, as there is now a "Cal Farley Road" in Amarillo.

Dory Funk, Sr. was originally from Hammond, Ind., a tough factory town just over the Illinois border from Chicago, and used to tell stories on tv about growing up there during the era of Al Capone. He attended Indiana U, and I think I remember him saying once that he was a math major. He started wrestling professionally on the road in 1947, was hired by Cal Farley to run the Boy's Ranch in 1949. He divided his time between wrestling and the Boy's Ranch in the early 50's, then returned to full-time wrestling at about age 40. One of the most interesting things about his early career is that Dory was brought in, a city kid from Chicagoland, and promoted in Texas, among authentic working ranch folk, as a cowboy hero! (The spinning toehold mimicked the movements of a hand tying up a calf for branding, that was the image it was supposed to evoke). With 99 out of 100 wrestlers, it wouldn't have worked, but basically Dory was tough enough to back up the brag, not only in his matches, but in shoots with the marks before the house shows and of course in the inevitable confrontations with the local bullies around town. What he was accomplishing at the Boy's Ranch- doing the undoable in the opinion of a lot of Amarilloans- helped his reputation too. Given time, he just out-Texaned the Texans and won them over completely.

He wrestled most of the big names of the 50's and 60's, and definitely all of the top junior heavies. Danny McShane was his career opponent, their feud running for years. His confrontations with Tony Borne and Frankie Hill Murdoch were only a little less legendary. According to Terry in early 70's interviews, the Texas Death Match (We used to call them TDM's and everybody knew what the initals meant) was invented in either 1959 or 1960, first opponent either Tokyo Joe or Danny McShane (I wsn't around for it, but I think the first one had the rules, but not the name, hence the later confusion). The TDM was the payoff night for a heel's stay in the area, the pattern being for years that each main-event heel would do a program with each lesser (non-Dory) face, each face would have a measure of revenge in time, but then the heel would be back the next week, worse than ever against somebody else, so it was not like a scorched-earth victory. Then, Dory Sr. would finally get his hands on him. In '69, 55 year old Dory and fiftyish Mike Dibiase did a TDM in Amarillo that went 4 hours. The cops were finally brought in to break it up- that was the finish. (To the promotion's credit, no capital was ever made of the fact that Mike Dibiase really did die less than a week after the match.) Actually, the possible length of a TDM was considered its big selling point and it would be advertised as a kind of giant economy match! The announcer would remind the fans how often they had seen TDM's go 90 mins., 2 hours, 2 and a half, and (after 1969) even 4 hours. Wrestlers would advise the marks to "bring a lunch and

blanket." Blood would be promised, almost by the gallon ("If you thought you saw blood last week, well let me tell you that was nothing compared to what I'm going to do to Dory Funk Sr. this Monday night. The time limit expired last week, but this time there's no time limit and no d.q., so can you even imagine the horrifying brutalization I'm going to inflict on his face and body right before your eyes? His blood will be running out of the ring and into the streets until it is he, and not the time limit that expires!!!") Of course, it never got quite as bloody as all that, but in Amarillo, the boys made a pretty good stab at it. I remember seeing Dory, Sr. exit the ring with his entire face and chest covered with blood, and long, awful rivulets reaching down to his knees. This was when he was already over 50 years old. I freely admit that by the time I saw him, Dory, Sr. had nothing left except charisma and ring psychology and the willingness to suffer for his art, but he didn't need anything else to create unforgettable matches. Terry and Dory, Jr. were, and are, in their individual ways, better workers than Dory, Sr. (at least as he was when I saw him in the late 60's/early 70's) when viewed objectively, and yet it's still impossible (20 years later!) for me to remember Dory Funk, Sr. objectively! Working "his" crowds in West Texas, he had that much magic! The understanding, or interaction, or synchronicity- whatever you want to call it that existed between Dory, Sr. and his most familiar audiences was fascinating to witness. It was nothing like Wrestlemania hysteria or even the tremendous pop Ric Flair or Kerry got for certain finishes. It was more like standard ring psychology taken to the nth degree. Dory working in Amarillo and Lubbock was like a conductor leading an orchestra. He shrugged, they stood up; a certain wave of the hand, they sat down. Every move, every expression, engendered a specific response from the crowd. The heat built slowly, turn by turn and the reaction to the finish- whether the fans were happy with it or not- was always roof-shaking. If Dory, Sr. did win the pop would indeed be the proportionate equal of any Hogan ever heard. In fact, more so, because the Amarilloans reaction to Dory Sr's victory was as heartfelt as it was intense. He was one of their own, and they believed in him absolutely. He had a whole section of the country just hypnotized for almost a quarter of a century. None of the faithful seemed to notice that, towards the end, Dory, Sr. became more invulnerable with each passing year! He sold less and less as he aged, until by the early 1970's, he was a sawed-off, sunken-chested, ultra-flabby pensioner shrugging away karate chops, multiple chair shots, sleeper holds, piledrivers and you name it, delivered by increasingly gigantic and/or muscular heels (Pak Song, Bull Ramos, Cyclone Negro). When the office came up with the notion of an absurdly telegraphed punch to the forehead called the Texas Haymaker, and introduced the move by not introducing it at all, treating it as something that Sr. had always had in his arsenal. Nobody asked why he hadn't used it against Tony Borne 10 years earlier, when his record of TDM victories was pushed ("over 200" and Dory Sr. used to have a little hand-lettered sign in front of his spot at the commentator's desk on tv announcing that he was "King of the TDMs with a skull and cross bones wearing a crown. Terry was "King of the Russian Chain Matches"), nobody counted them up or demanded a list. (The real number, throughout the territory and around the country, was probably closer to 2,000. Dory Sr. was very proud of his credibility and even kind of bragged about it sometimes on tv ("You people know that if I say I'm going to do something, I'm going to do it. We've got this big, tall building next door. You know that if I tell you I'm going to climb to the top of that building and jump off, I'm going to do that." Once, he even went to jail rather than expose the business in his territory (or anywhere for that matter). That was the kind of value he placed on credibility.

The incident happened in El Paso about April of '73. It was reported in the local papers in garbled kayfabe fashion, if anyone cares to look it up at this late date. Evidently, Dory Sr., Gory Guerrero, and the local go-fer front man, "Official promoter"- whatever you want to call that peculiar office- Oscar Provenico, had an argument about the evening's proceeds. There may or may not have been a brief scuffle during which Gory grabbed a suitcase holding the cash box office for the night's TDM (Cyclone Negro) gave it to Dory, and off the two old partners went like Kirk Douglas and Burt Lancaster in "Tough Guys." Provencio called the cops and said that he was the promoter and that one of his employees, a wrestler named Dory Funk, Sr. had just stolen $55,000 from the Coliseum office. When the patrol car pulled he and Gory over, outside a motel rather than explain that if anybody owned the business, he did, and if anybody was an employee, Provencio was (and thus admit, by extension that he was the guy signing the paychecks of the guy who was currently supposed to be trying to kill him, Cyclone Negro), Dory Sr. spent the remainder of the night in the El Paso jail. (In a week or two, Gory was installed as the promoter. Dory Sr. died so soon after it's difficult to tell what else might have come of this).

Near the end of his life, Dory's career was darkened just a little bit by what would turn out to be the foreshadowings of the future of wrestling. Cable tv arrived in the southwest very, very early. Even in '72 or '73, everybody knew somebody who had cable (by the mid-70's it would be more like everybody who could get it, had it) and so, practically every city in his territory then had a window on an alternate wrestling universe he couldn't control. The Texas towns got Fritz or Joe Blanchard's Wrestlathon or both. El Paso got Lebell from L.A., Albuquerque got Lebell and the AWA. None of them were really better than the local product, but different always looks better in the short run and all of them looked more expensively packaged, and to a lot of people, that's automatically better. All of that was bad enough, but in the cases of Dallas and (especially) L.A., the damage was terrible because those broadcasts presented a stunned West Texas/New Mexico Hispanic audience with a Funk family who were not only heels, but Mexican-baiting, racist heels! The newsstand wrestling magazine also carried articles portraying them in that way. Apparently, Dory, Sr. and the boys were so busy flying around the country making as much money as they could while Jr. was still champion (and who can blame them for that?) that they weren't aware of the situation, because it went on and on and was the marks talked about for months, until finally (and I mean, finally, because if this wasn't his last interview, it was his second to last) did a spot on tv in which he held up an Apter mag with a story about him putting a bounty on Jack Brisco's head, and admitted to fans that "Yes, it's true. Dory, Jr. and Terry and I aren't cheered everywhere we go. It's just like when the Dallas Cowboys play the NY Giants in NY, the fans there don't cheer for the Cowboys. But some of this stuff (points to magazine)...well, you can't believe everything you read. It says here I put a bounty on somebody's head and you know I wouldn't do a thing like that.") There was a spookily topical aspect to that moment, an evening-news parallel to those rumors about Dory Sr's villainous behavior elsewhere, that in fact gave it extra-impact, since this was at almost the very same time that Nixon was assuring the nation that he was not a crook. If he had the opportunity, Dory Sr., unlike Richard Nixon, might have found a way to turn this threat to his life's career to great advantage. Unfortunately, though on Sunday morning, June 3rd, 1973, Dory Funk, Sr. died of a heart attack. For whatever reason, his name remained in the Canyon, Texas phone book until 1988. Underneath was a sub-heading: "children's phone", which I guess was the number you called if you wanted to get in touch with 2 of the best workers who ever wore the NWA strap.

# Wrestling, King of Sports

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## A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

## FRIDAY JAN. 1 8:30 P.M.

★ ★ ★ DOUBLE MAIN EVENT ★ ★ ★

**BRASS KNUCKS RULES**

**BULL RAMOS**

**—VS—**

**KILLER KARL KOX**

**BUCK ROBLEY**

**—VS—**

**NICK KOZAK**

★ ★ ★ TAG TEAM MATCH ★ ★ ★

**MR. WRESTLING AND THE GLADIATOR -VS- TERRY FUNK AND BOBBY DUNCUM**

**BIG SAKA —vs— GORGEOUS GEORGE JR.**

**SPORTS ARENA**

**RESERVATIONS 374-2525**

RINGSIDE $2.50 RES. SEAT $2.00 GEN. ADM. $1.50 CHILDREN 75¢

Robley stalks his victim looking for his weakness and attacks, but tonight his intended foe, too wants the big victory, his adversary is just as cunning, skilled with his own "pet hold."

No doubt Nick will have his hands full, as he faces a man who will do about anything to win a match, but whatever the outcome it can be assured, it will not be an easy victory for whom ever may muster the win.

Tag team action in the semi, and action it will be, former footballers from West Texas State form an impressive team, Bobby Duncum and Terry Funk, with out question this is a team of youth, strength and stamina. It will be used against the Western States Tag Team Champs, Mr. Wrestling and The Gladiator.

Although the belts are not on the line the masked duo is like a "task force" anytime they step in the ring. It can almost be certain if Duncum and Funk can dump the masked men, they'll be demanding a title shot. This should be quite a bout!

The opener will be of great interest when the highflying Gorgeous George Jr. will try to "upend" Big Saka, a wrestler whose reputation is classed as dangerous, crafty on the mat. We look for this bout to set the pace for the entire sterling lineup this evening.

"Don't forget next weeks Pro Wrestling resumes on it's regular Thursday nights . . . SEE YOU THEN."

One of the big bouts on tonights double main event card pits two of the toughest foes ever signed and when they tangle . . . lookout. Bull Ramos vs. Killer Karl Kox.

We have seen some rugged, tough even wild bloody bouts in the past, but what to expect when these two International stars enter the ring this evening will be "another story." It could easily exceed any "turmoil" ever in any ring.

Both of these matmen have reputations, records at stake and will be taking precaution, advantage to keep both in tact. They like action, step aside for no man and considering the Brassknucks rules are in force already, the fact Kox and Ramos both have reputations of throwing the rule book out . . . this could easily turn into a "wild free for all battle."

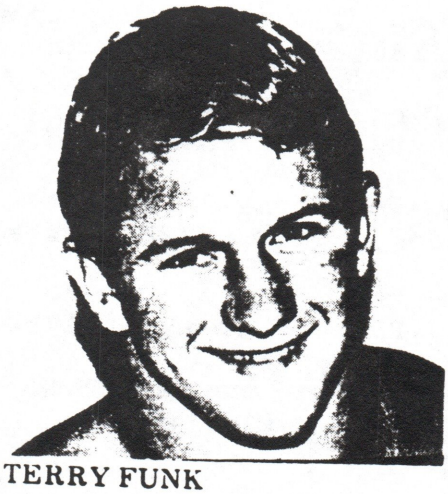
The co-feature sees handsome Nick Kozak taking on Buck Robley who excels not only with his rough tactics but is professed in using the dreaded "Sleeper Hold."

### DO YOU REMEMBER

One year ago — The Beast used rough house tactics to retain his Western States Championship in a victory over Terry Funk. The winner outslugged Terry outside the ring and managed to return before the 20 count. Funk didn't and was disqualified.

Two years ago — J. C. Dykes, manager of the Infernos, caused his matmen defeat against Mr. Ito and Chati Yokouchi. During a wild mixup rushed into the ring to hit one of the Japs with a canteen, he missed and hit Inferno No. 2 over the head, knocking him out.

Three years ago — Thunderbolt Patterson teamed with Dory Funk Sr. to conquer Dr. Blood and The Medic in straight falls. The Duke gave Ricky Romero a hard time in the semi final before losing the match.



TERRY FUNK

# SHEET & FANZINE REVIEWS- REVISED 1994
BY: EVAN GINZBURG (A.K.A. PLUGMANIA)

Sushi- $1.50 to Jeff Mullins, Ed. PO Box 36189, San Jose, Ca. 95158- One of my absolute faves- Sometimes bizarre, sometimes brilliant.

Combat Sports- PO Box 651, Gracie Station New York, NY 10028-0006. $2. Where else can you find out about not just wrestling but roller derby!?

Piledriver- 73 Humber Rd. Beeston, Notts Eng. NG9 2ET- Rasslin' with a British slant. US and European coverage. Write for rates.

Fan clubs (w/newsletters) c/o Billie Jessie- Nikita, Fantastics, Ivan, Italian Stallion, Baby Doll- 1352 Warpath Dr. Kingsport, Tn. 37644-3755

Pro Wrestling Torch- PO Box 201844 Minneapolis, Mn. 55420 . Prices have sky-rocketed ($72/yr) so why not support smaller sheets? The pomposity dripping from this baby is stifling, but some wonderful graphics!

Mat Marketplace- $3.00 to Sheldon Goldberg at PO Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA. 02130- Great place for all your mat merchandise needs.

Obscure Publications & Video- $1.50 to PO Box 1334,0 Milwaukee, WI 53201- Always fascinating reading if you're into zines of all kinds.

Piledriver- Lazarus Doblesky- PO Box 34 Glenhuntly, Vic. Australia 3163- May just be the finest wrestling publication in world! $6. TRY IT!!!

Pro Wrestling Monthly- Fabulous Ruffolo Brothers- 568 Speedwell Ave. Morris Plains, NJ 07950- Vastly underrated. Comprehensive stuff! $2.

Wrestling Observer Newsletter- PO Box 1228 Campbell, Ca. 95009-1228- If you don't follow Mexican or Japanese wrestling closely and don't care for several pgs. of results, there's some skimming to do. Great for news.

Wrestling Perspective- MacArthur & Skolnick editors- PO Box 401 Camillus, NY 13031-0401. $1.50. Never gotten its due. Excellent sheet. Recommended!

Wrestling News- Norman Keitzer. $5 sample copy- newspaper format. Route 1, Box 103, Vernon Center, MN. 56090. The grandaddy of 'em all.

PWI Weekly- $1.95 to PO Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA. 19034 $1.95. Professional format. Keeps you up to date on all weekly news/title changes.

Girljock- $3.95 to Rox-a-tronic Publishing, PO Box 882723, San Francisco, Ca. 94188-2723 for lesbian sports/culture.

Wrestling Chatterbox- Georgiann Makropoulos 23-44 30th Dr.Astoria, NY 11102- $2.50. From the "old school"- warm, fun, info-packed, big!

Rings Around the Northwest- Mike Rodgers- only 50 cents to 613 NE 178th St. Portland, Oregon 97230. Great regional coverage. Also merchandise!

1973 Record Book and Photo Album (and other RARE nostalgia sheets from 70's). Ronald Dobratz- 11750 Graystone Circle Roscoe, Il. 61073.

Outside Interference- $1.50 to Dave Prazak at PO Box 4005, Lisle, Il. 60532 Eddie Goldman and Dr. Mike Lano lead staff of interesting columnists.

Wrestling Flyer- PO Box 283, Wallingford, Pa. 19020 $1.50 to John Clark for some of the interviews that beat Wade at his own game. $12 for annual(s).

Chairshots- Barry Rose. 200 Leslie Drive, Apt. 717, Hallandale, Fl. 33009. Columnists Mike Terry/Tim Whitehead/Butch Bigelow & others shine. Only $1.

On The Mat- Gary Langevin- 124 Maple Street, Newport, Vt. 05855-10418 ($2). Packed with info and stronger indie coverage than most.

Betty Paginated- $3 to PO Box 63, Lyrup, SA 5343, Australia for porn, rasslin', music, nudie pix, bizarre flicks & more.

Matwatch- Steve Beverly of 165 Smith Chamberlain Road, Medina, TN. 38355/ $5.00 for 3 issues will get you insight into the wrestling media.

Small Magazine Review- $20/yr. to get inside the fanzine world- PO Box 100 Paradise, Ca. 95967.

Whatever Happened To? $3 per issue to Scott Teal at PO Box 2781, Hendersonville, TN. 37077-2781. Like the name says. Info-packed.

Batteries Not Included- $2 to Richard Freeman at 130 West Limesltone St., Yellow Springs, OH 45387 for insight into the "wonderful" world of porno!

D- Bug. Wild zine from wrestling's Potshot Bill Kunkel- 330 S. Decatur Sutie 152 Las Vegas, NV. 89107. Particular interest to computer buffs.

The Joe Bob Report. $3 to Joe Bob Briggs, PO Box 2002 Dallas, Tx. 75221. Psychotronic world's #1 philosopher and a strong supporter of WT&N!

Mentertainment-$2 to Box 9445 Elizabeth, NJ 07202. Inside strip industry.

TAPE DEALERS;

Richie Olander- 50-48 47th St. Woodside, NY 11377 52 cent stamp & SASE. Specializing in the old, hard to find stuff.

George Maranville- 267 Bassett Ave. Lexington, KY 40502- Japan, Ga. Memphis,- $1/list. Also unbelievable CULT MOVIE list- add $1.

Bob Barnett- 3101 Fifth St. #2 Santa Monica, Ca. 90405. The "wrestling lawyer's" got it all- Japan, Goodhart, Minnesota, Brody comps etc.

Mark Markley- 13310 17th Ave. NE Seattle, Wa. 98125- Portland, Calgary, Fla., WWF, WCW etc. "Markey Mark's" (sorry guy!) got what you need!

John Kruszewski 2120 Fleet St. Baltimore, Md. 21231- write for details.

WRESTLING SCHOOLS: (See back issues of WT&N for more details)

Bill Anderson: PO Box 6721, San Bernandino, Ca. 92412 (714) 825-9750.

Slammers Wrestling Gym: PO Box 1602, Studio City, Ca. 91614

Sweet Daddy Siki/Ron Hutchison Pro Wrestling School- PO Box 22523- 300 Coxwell Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4L 3W7

Al Costello- 2266 Gulf to Bay Blvd. Lot 3344, Clearwater, Fl. 34625

Tugboat Taylor's Pro Wrestling School & Drug Free Fed. 713-222-6220

East Coast Pro Wrestling School- Gino Caruso/Rocky Jones 201-299-0602

Lower East Side Wrestling School- Pete McKay 605 FDR Dr. NYC Monthly cards

RADIO SHOWS:

Light Show (Arts program)- Fri nites (Sat. morn) 3:00-5:00 A.M. WBAI-FM 99.5 FM NYC. See ad this issue.

Main Event- 90.3 FM WBAU Sat. 1-2 Garden City, NY Dave Schwartz

TV SHOWS:

Canvas Cavity with Dr. Mike Lano United Artists Cable (Ch 3)- Northern Ca. & L.A.- Thursday's- 9:30 PM also in NYC on Manhattan Cable and Paragon Ch. 69 on Thursday 3:30 PM & Sat. 1:30 PM (Ch. 34).

Squared Circle Session- 3:00 Sat. Ch. 17 Manhattan & Paragon Cable

BOOKS:

Wild West Characters by Dale Pierce featuring Fred Beell, Bill Muldoon & Frank Gotch- $5.95 plus $1.50 shipping and handling: Golden West Publishers, 4113 N. Longview, Phoenix, AZ. 85014.

Royal Duncan of 7600 N. Galena Road, Peorial, Il 61615 has put together a 300 plug page WRESTLING TITLE HISTORY book. Amazing. $40

Fred Hornby of 82 Highland Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050 has many items for sale, including the 5th supplement to The Buddy Rogers Record Book. Write for rates on individual items. $23 for all 5 Rogers items.

Wyoming's Wrestling Rancher- Clarence Eklund Bio by Hazel Eklund. $24.95. RECOMMENDED! 195 Pine, Buffalo, Wy. 82834

WRESTLING ON COMPUTER

WRB Creative Marketing Group- PO Box 2753, Shawenee Mission, KS 66201 Unique computer wrestling game called Pro Wrestling Promoter. $20

WRESTLING PROMOTIONS

Smokey Mountain Wrestling- PO Box 1279, Morristown, Tn. 37816-1279 is offering a catalogue of their GREAT merchandise for a SASE.

PROGRAM REPRINTS (10,000 program collection- all territories 50's-80's)

Howard Roth of 49 Maple Dr. New Hyde Park, NY 11040. $1/ea. Write for info.

Interview with Verne Langdon
By: Ms Billie Jessee

Everyone knows by now that Verne Langdon is the "Head Slammer" at Slammers Wrestling Gym in Sun Valley, Ca. We wanted to find out more about him and the gym and how he became involved in wrestling.

Q: How did you get your start in wrestling?

A: I have been wrestling since the day I was born. I wrestled my way out of my mothers womb, according to witnesses, and have been wrestling ever since. I think I have wrestled more than anybody in the sport because I wrestled continuously as a kid, throughout school, growing up, right through today. I've been involved in wrestling, in some way, all my life. I had the first radio show, ever, featuring wrestling interviews, in the San Francisco Bay area each night, in 1959 on KLOK.

Q: Were you born and raised in California?

A: Yes, I am a native of California. In fact, I was born in Oakland, California, out by the lake and about 17 minutes from the Oakland Coliseum.

Q: Do you have any amateur wrestling background?

A: Well, I was on a wrestling team starting in the 6th grade through my first year of college. I played football in college as well as wrestled so I've been very active in wrestling as long as I can remember.

Q: Who gave you your training?

A: I had two of the best teachers. They were George Drake and the Fabulous Moolah. I also knew and worked out with a lot of pros. A lot of times, if your teacher doesn't have a name or one they've heard of, they think they are probably not a good teacher. Big names and known wrestlers doesn't necessarily make good teachers. George was not a big name but a great teacher. I can't say enough about the Fabulous Moolah. She is such a fine person, incredible wrestler and a wonderful teacher. Sure, you can have the finest people in the world training you but if you're not receptive to the training and don't apply the seat of your pants to the seat of the chair or in this case, the muscle to the ringpost, you're not going to succeed. I have considerable respect for those who get in the ring and wrestle and for wrestlers who are also good teachers.

Q: You must have had some wrestling heroes while you were growing up. Who were some of them?

A: As far as tag team competition was concerned, I enjoyed the Torres and Sharpe brothers. Of course, Gorgeous George was the all-time greatest showman and an excellent wrestler.

Q: Did you pattern your style of wrestling after anyone, in particular?

A: I always say that Classy Freddie Blassie taught me how to bite. I've always wrestled as a rulebreaker and God knows, Blassie has had his share of lunches, in the ring. He is not only the "Hollywood Fashion Plate," but he's probably one of the five most intriguing personalities and best athletes that the sport has ever seen. I can't say enough about him.

Q: Who has been the strongest influence on you?

A: I would have to say the guys that are wrestling at Slammers Gym now, in our own Slammers Wrestling Federation. They are the ones that have achieved the ultimate goal in life and sacrificed themselves and their personal lives to do that. And with that, they earn a spot in the Slammers Wrestling Federation doing their graduate work; and show me

just how effective they can be. They have taken their training seriously and earned the title "wrestler." We've also been very fortunate to have had George Napolitano visit our facility in reviewing us and he said, "For years now, the best training ground for young pro wrestling hopefuls has been at Slammers Gym in Sun Valley, Ca." We are doing everything we can to change the face of professional wrestling, for the better. At Slammers, we don't allow our students to smoke, drink, do drugs or use steroids. It's been that way from the time we opened and will remain that way. There are some people out there that think we are a little weird for thinking that way and I wish all those people the best. If they want to smoke, drink, do drugs and steroids, by all means, they should. But, if I ever catch them near Slammers, I'll kick their ass.

Q: Over the years, I know you've been in the ring with a lot of wrestlers. Who has been your toughest opponent?

A: I would honestly have to say the Slammers in the Slammers Wrestling Federation. These are kids between the ages of 18-25 that approach wrestling with the same zealousness that I do. I have wrestled most of the guys here but especially Malicious Mike, El Toro Bravo, Bill Pearl and Jeff Lindberg. I work out with them on a daily basis as well as oversee their instruction and drill and they are really tough.

Q: Would you like to see a unification of the world titles?

A: No. I think wrestling has always been a transient sport in that it migrated to this country and was spread through this country, originally, on carnival midways. It was wrestling and boxing shows and then went into halls, as halls were built. Abe Lincoln, one of our Presidents of the United States, wrestled, and he didn't wrestle at Madison Square Garden, either. He wrestled in the dirt, or on the grass, in a circle, at the fair grounds like everyone else, at that time. So, wrestling was a portable sport then and as they developed federations/promotions, each had a champion. As long as we have individual federations, and I trust we always will, we will have individual champions.

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Q: What is your height and weight?

A: I'm 6'2 and weigh 266 lbs.

Q: To keep the look that you have, you must have a workout schedule. Tell us about it.

A: At Slammers, we don't train body-builders but we do have small hand weights. I train in the ring, do push-ups, sit-ups and walk 3 miles every morning. My time in the ring varies from 2-6 hours a day.

Q: What has been your most embarrassing moment?

A: I was playing center on the football team in high school and I caught the ball and one of the guys tackled me and my pants came off, right in the middle of the football field and in front of the cheerleaders, one of whose attention I was trying to get...ha..ha..I got her attention, alright, but no date.

Q: How long have you been wrestling?

A: Well, like I said, I've been wrestling from the very beginning of my life. It's my passion. Some guys like to play tennis, some guys like to play golf, some guys like to pull teeth and I'd rather wrestle than eat, drink or sleep.

Q: How do you feel about the smaller independent promotions?

A: They are entirely essential and Slammers has one ourselves, Slammers Wrestling Federation. We're the only regular promotion in southern California. We have a card the first Sunday of each month featuring the

# WRESTLING THEN & NOW

Evan Ginzburg-Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

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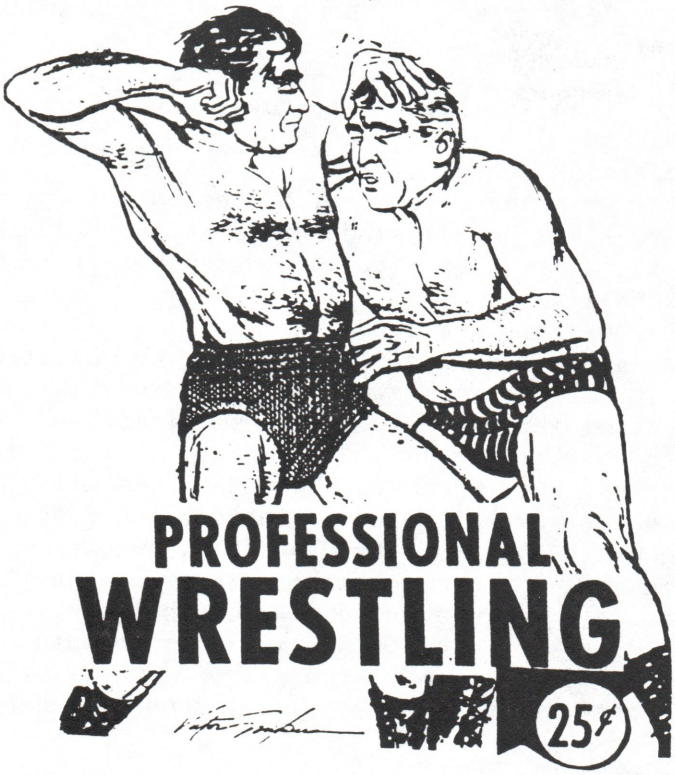


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Slammers students and its very successful. But, I think the independent promotions are extremely important and very hard to form, these days. With all due respect to the bleeding-hearts who like to blame Vince McMahon for the demise of the independent promotions, if any of those people ever tried to promote a wrestling show themselves, they would realize the truth of the matter is, there are very few small facilities to play in any longer, insurance is very expensive and good talent is very hard to find. There are a lot of people out there that claim to be wrestlers who have had a couple of lessons, bought some tights and a pair of boots but can't wrestle their way out of a paper bag. To find real talent, you have to scour for it and that's one thing that we are so proud of here at Slammers and I put these guys up against any wrestlers in the sport today.

Q: What has been your greatest moment in your career?

A: Every first Sunday in each month when the first match goes on. It answers the question, "Are we doing this right and have we accomplished anything?" We are about to start our fourth successful year in September. There's nothing like it.

Q: How has wrestling changed since you first started?

A: It's changed like anything else in our society today. Like political campaigning, music, theater, ice shows, etc have changed. Like the circus left the canvas and came into the auditoriums...wrestling got off the mat and up into the air. I enjoy the flamboyance, the glitz and glitter, the fancy costumes. But when you shed all this, it still boils down to talent. Yes, in the overall view of things, the sport has changed tremendously, as one would expect it to, and it will continue to change. But, I think what is important to remember here is we're still wrestling. I think there comes a time in everyones life that our tastes become refined. Don't sit around and bad-mouth wrestling because it's not like it used to be. Go on to some other sport or means of entertaining yourself, but don't diminish or spoil the sport for others because you've out-grown it.

Q: What wrestler do you admire the most?

A: I admire a number of them from a general range; some of my favorite wrestlers are Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, Barry Windham, Arn Anderson, Georgeous George, Lou Thesz, Count Varga, Johnny B. Badd, Jake Roberts, Sam Houston, Lanny Poffo, the Christy Bros, Mike and Ben Sharpe, Ricky Steamboat and the list goes on and on. Each of these men have made such an enormous contribution to the sport. A lot of people refer to wrestling as a business or profession but I always call it a sport, which it is.

Q: Do you think the Athletic Commission benefits the wrestlers?

A: No.I think the commissions have out lived their usefulness. All you really need is a doctor to give a guy a checkup and say whether he is able to wrestle or not. We <California> are not regulated, fortunately. There are about 12 states that aren't and we're one of them. It's so difficult for anybody to be in business as it is, I feel such "Commissions" only complicate things.

Q: Have you had any serious injuries during your career?

A: I've had a broken leg, two cracked ribs, 3 displaced vertebras, cauliflower ears, a broken nose, broken wrist and everything has been sprained but you know what, I wouldn't trade it for anything. I've competed in almost all sports and I feel that wrestling is the toughest.

Q: What advice would you give to a young rookie just beginning in the sport?

February 28, 1994

Evan Ginzburg
Wrestling Then & Now
POB 471 - Oakland Gardens Station
Flushing, NY 11364

Dear Friend Evan:

Many thanks for the latest copy of WT&N; as always, I enjoy it from cover-to-cover! You really have a way with words and with the right reminiscenses. Of course EVERYTHING is "just a memory", but as the old saying goes, and it's true, "it seems like it was only yesterday"!

I agree with you that there is a percentage of "wrestlers" that seem to put the sport at its "lowest" ever, but be careful not to overlook those up-and-comers who do all in their power to improve and credit this fine sport. As a glimpse of any of our videos will attest, our own "Stars of Slammers" are among those young men who give it 150% in an effort to carry on the deep tradition of TRUE wrestling. So many times I hear people putting down the sport as it appears today, yet these same people have no idea how hard the sport really is to master, and the dedication it takes to uphold its Honor. As I have always said, particularly in regard to the mountains of criticism heaped upon Vince McMahon Jr., ANY ASSHOLE CAN TEAR DOWN A BARN, BUT IT TAKES A REAL ARCHITECT TO BUILD ONE. So it is with our great Sport.....do you really believe the "quality of U.S. wrestling for the most park (is) at an all-time low"? Okay, then why don't the whole fucking lot of you just clamber into the ring and improve it? 'Nuff said. Except to add, God only knows WE'RE trying to do OUR part, and it's always comforting to read when someone notices that and comments accordingly.

Thanx for the offer to run a plug...will try to find something the right size and send it along. Also looking forward to reading my interview in your pages...very nice of you to offer to do this. Sounds like the project of taking on your Dad's taxi stories may keep you out of trouble for awhile. Just don't slip into "overload".

As always, my best personal regards. Take care, Evan!

Verne Langdon, Head Slammer
SLAMMERS WRESTLING GYM
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VL:kc

A: Well, we get a lot of letters from all around the country everyday and I try to answer each one of them myself. The average letter starts out "I would like to be a professional wrestler but I don't know what to do." They want to know what they should do to get started in wrestling. I say, if you are going to college, finish. Get a degree in something that is un-sports related. If you're not going to college, get into one and get a degree because we live in a very competitive world and what you want to do or be today, you may not necessarily want to do or be 10-15 years from now. Where the average teacher of a wrestling school would say, "Oh, come right over. We're going to make you a pro and guarantee your first paid match...that will be $3500.00, please! We tell them to call us when they get out of college and have a degree and have something to show us. If they're not college material we tell them to at least get a high school degree and go to a jr college or training school. Every wrestler needs some way of supporting themselves other than wrestling. Out of the approximately 3000 "wrestlers" in the US today, qualified or semi-qualified, less than 600 of them are wrestling regularly. I tell potential students to get an education and get their life in order and become a citizen of the world before becoming a professional wrestler. Then, if they still want to do it, come to Slammers.

Q: How many guys do you have studying at "Slam U?"

A: Right now we have 10 graduate students and training 5 additional freshman students and we also have regular cliental who come in and rent the ring. They're our "weekend warriors."

Q: I know that Slammers Wrestling Gym has recently produced some wrestling videos. I've seen one of them. Tell us about the others and how the fans can purchase them.

A: Well, one of them is called "Stars of Slammers Close Up." It's exactly what the name implies...Close up. You'll love the action in this 2nd edition with over 80 minutes of mat mayhem the way only Slammers can do it. Stars on this video include Jeff Lindberg, Ben "The Walking Weapon" Peller, SWF Champion Malicious Mike, Dynamite D, Joltin' Jason and all the SWF wrestlers. Another video that we are very proud of and the very first instructional videotape from Slam U is "The Great American Collegiate Wrestling Instructional Video." The instructor on this video is none other than "Terrific" Tom King, assisted by "Magnificent Mark Ehrhardt. It features easy to comprehend and readily-applicable sessions <Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced>. It's just like taking private instruction from "Terrific" Tom. The most recent video is called "Pain & Punishment." This is the 3rd edition and from start to finish, every single match is full of action. SWF favorites featured on this tape are Jeff Lindberg, Dynamite D, Malicious Mike, Ben "Walking Weapon" Peller, Joltin' Jason and Superstorm plus new Slammer stars Bill Pearl and El Toro Bravo. Over 80 minutes of exciting action.

Q: What is the concept of Slammers Wrestling Gym?

A: Every now and then, we still get that question. "What is Slammers?" Well, it's the world's FIRST & ONLY place of its kind where people who love to wrestle can come and DO IT! You rent a regulation wrestling ring, or Olympic-size mat and GET DOWN! Beyond this, however, Slammers is where you LEARN HOW TO WRESTLE PROFESSIONALLY at Slam U, our University of Professional Wrestling, where we teach you the "A TO Z's" of the Sport, and yes, to us Professional Wrestling is just that...A SPORT. WE WRESTLE WITH YOU through basic mat work & brawling, aerial moves & flying

technique and even interview/camera skills. We are very meticulous about your education, because we pride ourselves in giving you the MOST COMPLETE WRESTLING EDUCATION AVAILABLE TODAY. Part of your graduate studies even include your participation in our SLAMMERS WRESTLING FEDERATION, where your wrestling maneuvering is carefully analyzed and continually improved. When you are ready, you will receive a diploma and graduate, having received our full training program tailor-made for YOU.

Q: What does it take to be a winner?

A: If you do what you love, you'll always be a winner. If you pursue something for financial gain alone, you'll be a loser. It doesn't mean you're a winner if you've got 15 million dollars in the bank but if you're happy and can sleep nights and can look at yourself in the mirror, in the morning, confidently, and are satisfied with yourself and have good friends, you're a winner.

Q: Are there any holds or moves that you think should be barred from the sport?

A: No, I don't think so but there should be some wrestlers barred from the sport that weren't taught properly or don't know how to apply them well.

Q: Tell us something about your educational background?

A: I graduated from San Jose St College with a major in English Lit and minor in radio/television.

Q: Do you feel that cable tv and ppv's have helped or hurt the sport?

A: Cable tv and ppv's are merely an extension of early television, as we knew it when the only three things you could put on tv were interview talk shows with people like Steve Allen and Jerry Lester, puppet shows like Time For Beanie and professional wrestling. So, cable television is a refinement, if you will, of network television and is simply the next step in television as we are coming to know it. It has nothing to do with the art or sport. Cable tv has boosted wrestling further than any electronic system that we know of. People say there's so much wrestling on tv today, its ruined it. That's like saying there's so much music on the radio today, people won't go to concerts. People will always go to concerts if you give them fine artists to go see. Madonna has no problem selling tickets, Axel Rose has no problem selling tickets. The right wrestlers have no problem selling tickets and the right promotions have no problem selling tickets. Cable tv and ppv's helped establish those wrestlers and promotions and make business even greater.

Q: Do you think there should be random steroid/drug testing?

A: I'm anti-steroid because I believe they're not good for you. I'm anti-alcohol/drugs/tobacco because I know they're not good for you because I did that once in my life. I think the athletes should make the decision themselves as to what they want to put into their bodies. I've been told by people who know that steroids alter your moods and your disposition. God knows, we all have enough problems with people who alter their moods and dispositions that don't do steroids so why compound that? Let each man govern himself.

Q: What are your hobbies and interests, outside of wrestling?

A: I'm a composer, a member of ASCAP <American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers>, a photographer.

Q: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

A: No, my brother was an only child.

Q: Do you have any relatives who are involved in wrestling?

A: My dad was a wrestler.

Q: Thank you, Verne for the interview and we wish you and each of your students and the SWF much success.

A: Billie, as always, it's been my pleasure. Anytime.

# AN INTERVIEW WITH TOO COLD SCORPIO
BY: EDDIE GOLDMAN

The following interview was conducted by Eddie Goldman with Too Cold Scorpio (Charles Skaggs) for WBAI-FM's Lightshow on May 11, 1994. It was broadcast in three parts. Here now you can read for yourself just what Scorpio said and in just what context.

EG: Many of you have been asking the question recently, "Where is Too Cold Scorpio?" We've heard the song "Here comes Too Cold Scorpio." Well, he's with us on WBAI radio. Scorpio, we'd like to greet you on "Lightshow."

S: All right. Hey, how's everybody doing out there on the "Lightshow.?" I would like for everybody to know, hey, I'm in the house!

EG: All right. How come you're no longer in WCW? I know there was a lot of controversy.

S: I received a notice that I was terminated. I was advised that I shouldn't speak about it, due to what I have pending. My reason for leaving is a question of the WCW and their policy, who and when and what time they give their drug tests to certain people.

EG: They seem to have a very selective policy on who they enforce which rules with.

S: Mm-hmm.

EG: One thing we had heard also, while you were in the organization, is that, while you were teaming with Marcus Bagwell, Bagwell, who has less experience than you, was actually making more money.

S: Mm-humm. Now the thing about Bagwell, you know, he's always been a little rich kid who never really had to put in any dues. You know, the thing about it is, you can't take nothing from Marcus. He tries, you know, and he tries hard. But the bottom line is he can't really tie my boots. You know what I'm saying? I'm carrying him on my back, I mean, whether people want to believe it or they don't want to believe it, it's the bottom line. You know, I was the team. Pay me for my talent. Pay me what I'm worth. Why would you even think about tagging a guy up with somebody when he has the ability to be a new star on the horizon?

EG: They basically did not want to have too many Blacks who were the top world champions in various categories.

S: Exactly.

EG: The WWF has only had two tag teams that were Afro-American. Years ago- they had Tony Atlas and Rocky Johnson as champs briefly. And then they had these two new guys, Men on A Mission, for about a week. And WCW...

S: Right. The only other Black team that they had that ever held the belt really was Ron Simmons and Butch Reed. When me and Marcus won them, when Dusty was still in charge, I thought that was a joke to give us the belts for one day and then take them back from us.

EG: Right. They had you beat those guys 3 out of 4 times and you end up holding the title, a grand total of, at least on tv, one day.

S: What is wrong with, say, a Black man being on top or a Black man being the heavyweight champion or being a star if the people are behind him and this is what the people want? And you're a so-called businessman and you say you're out to make the money, then how come you're not doing what it takes to make the money when your company is in a 95% Black state?

EG: They were hiring white models to sit in the front rows at the Center Stage in order to keep the young Black kids away from being on tv.

S: Not only that, you got to look at the kind of areas they run a tv taping in. It's mostly the low economy-type areas, the Black part of town. And you do not expect for them when it's free to come to a show and be down in the front row hooting and hollering like most kids do. I mean, that's just something that you do when you go to a wrestling match whether it be Black kids, White kids, or old folks. I don't know if it's because of the people that they have in the driver's seat of the WCW, because I really don't believe it's the people that are behind TBS.

EG: Well, when Bill Watts was in there, he gave that infamous interview to Wade Keller, which I interpreted as his openly advocating a return to the pre-civil rights era and re-institution of the various Jim Crow practices.

S: The thing about Bill Watts is he was man enough to tell you what he was like. But then again, he was a businessman, you know what I'm saying? He wasn't afraid, he wasn't the type of person that would smile in your face and then call you a nigger behind your back. But the bottom line? He knew how to make money.

EG: We've also dealt with some promoters that are pretty out front and will say those types of things publicly, but that's another organization.

S: Right.

EG: WCW briefly put the belt on Ron Simmons. A lot of people felt that was kind of a failure for a lot of reasons, one of which is that he didn't have really good opponents, and they really never built up any real good convincing feuds. Since then, other people that have been champion have won the belt and lost the belt several times, such as Vader, Rick Rude and Flair, but they've never put any other kind of belt on Simmons since.

S: Now, was that because of Dusty Rhodes being in office? Or was that because Ric Flair had something to do with it?

EG: You were one of the most popular and most talented stars in the organization. I'm not just saying this because you're on the line. This is something I've said in private. I've written this in various newsletters. We've said this on the radio. It seems that the whole attitude down there is that if the fans like something, they somehow think they're going to expose the business if they give people what they want.

S: Exactly.

EG: And therefore they get dwindling crowds in their own home base and 600 people showing up in the Omni, which used to draw in thousands and

thousands of people every month and even more. Also, one of the things we were talking about was how they used various tag teams such as yourself and the Harlem Heat that they brought in from Texas.

S: How come these guys aren't doing more? How come they're not, say, on that winning streak to have the belt? Is it because they're Black too?

EG: In the days of Jim Crow, they used to have what were called "colored matches" where basically they'd have two Black wrestlers. They wouldn't let a Black wrestler go against a White wrestler. Now there were Black wrestlers like Bearcat Wright, Luther Lindsay, Tiger Conway, and others that didn't go along with that and fought against that alongside groups like the NAACP. Now that they can't officially have segregation it seems that, especially in WCW, you have your own version of a "colored match." They'd seem to keep all the Black wrestlers together just in their own feuds. So when they brought in Harlem Heat they seemed to be mainly teamed against you and Bagwell, or if there was a six-man it would be Harlem Heat and Simmons against you and Bagwell and Ice Train. Or they'd have Simmons feuding with Ice Train. They very rarely had a feud between a Black wrestler and a white wrestler that had a belt.

S: Yeah. See, but just like you say that was something they used to do back in the olden days. And a lot of people that used to be back in the olden days are Dusty Rhodes and Ric Flair who are now in the driver's seat up in the WCW. This is why I question a lot of stuff that's going on.

EG: Even the way they use some other wrestlers, like a friend of ours, Pez Whatley, who we interviewed last year on the show...

S: Very nice guy.

EG: Very nice guy, and I think he can still wrestle. I think he can still work. The peak of his career is behind him, but he still can work and they seem to basically have him on as a glorified jobber on the shows.

S: Right. He was a Black guy who they held down too. But if it had to come down to where I had to see two guys in the ring who still could do it, I would say Pez could do it a lot better than Flair could.

EG: And he has a tremendous wrestling background. He was a Tennessee state champion in high school, and his son as well has been a Tennessee State champion in high school. That's the first father-son team to be that state's champions. And instead of utilizing that, they just bring him out a couple of times a year and really don't use him in the proper way.

S: Job him. Right.

EG: One of the questions everyone is asking is where have you been since you've left WCW. We know you're scheduled to be on the IWC/AAA shows, but what have you been doing in the past couple of weeks?

S: I've been working out real hard, getting ready to do a few independent shots and getting ready to go back to New Japan. Most likely I'm probably going to be up against somebody like Pegasus Kid, Eddie Guerrero; I'm sure Jushin Thunder Liger is going to be on it, and I'm not sure who else is going to be on the card right now.

EG: Now for those that get a chance to see it, they recently had the Super Junior Cup Tournament where a lot of those guys were involved in. I'm sure you'll be a very good addition to that group of wrestlers. Also, how do you feel about the IWC/AAA group?

S: Part of that organization I got involved with when I was down in Mexico about a year and a half ago. When I came over through WCW and I was recently released, the word got out that Scorpio was back on the market. They had called me and asked me if I would like to be on one of their shows that they had involved going on down in Chicago and NY. I said yes. Then again it was Mexican style wrestling that I was already familiar with. I had previously wrestled with EMLL for four months.

EG: Are there any other plans?

S: In the near future I was hoping that before long I could get over to Germany and I'd also like to go to Japan, and Mexico. So out of those three places, those are the ones I'm basically going to try to stick to.

EG: So basically all those promotions emphasize a lot of good, solid wrestling, a lot of high-flying moves and that sort of thing, a lot of the things that you are well-known for.

S: Exactly. And I'm also looking forward to the new talent and the different style of wrestling from a lot of the other wrestlers that really understand more or less my style, instead of the handful of guys in WCW.

EG: One thing that people want to know is a little bit about how your career started. How did you get into WCW? Most fans in the U.S. really weren't aware of you before then.

S: Right. Basically my career got started sitting back at home, relaxing, enjoying myself. A friend of mine was an independent wrestler named Jeff Gold, also known as Magic Michael Starr. He weighed about a buck ninety-five soaking wet with a brick in his pocket. I thought to myself that I'm bigger than this guy, he can't be a wrestler. So I went down to watch him one day and he got in the ring and got bouncing around and working out. I got up and said, I can do that. Then I got up there and started doing it and I liked it. And I asked him, do you get paid doing this? He said, yeah. I don't get much, but you can make some money in it.

EG: And what kind of athletic background did you have at that point?

S: I was just getting out of school. I basically was doing football and basketball and I ran track all through high school. I was just recently married and had a kid, so I was being a handyman, so I questioned myself about getting into professional wrestling. On one of the independent shows, Vader was one of the big headliners. He just happened to be home from Germany and one of the tours. They talked him into being on one of the shows. He saw what I had and he said he thought I would do very well in Japan. He talked about that for a couple of years, and about the third year or so he came down and paid for a guy to make a tape and send it to Japan. It kind of just took off from there. They saw the tape, liked it, and invited me over for a 3 week tour in 1990. I've been going over there ever since then. After I came back from there I went to Mexico for four months, and then Leon had hooked me up with WCW so they would give me a try-out. I was back when Watts was in the office. He took another tape, one that was a

lot better, and showed Watts the tape and he liked it. Next thing I knew, they called me up and I signed. When I came on, I didn't realize I was going to be Ron Simmons' partner, and take over Robbie Walker's spot. He was another Black guy that they just kicked to the curb. I don't know how they did it or what, but he was just here today and gone tomorrow.

EG: I always wondered what happened with him.

S: I never did hear and I never did see him around. I know I had come in one day, seen him on the taping, talked to the guys who were supposed to be signing the contract, talking about me working with Ron in the street match or whatever it was. And I heard he was a real nice guy, a young kid, still green, but he was learning. I don't know if they fired him on the spot, or if he was under contract or what.

EG: Now, which was the show you actually debuted on for WCW?

S: The Clash. I was the mystery man or something like that. They didn't know who I was.

EG: And that's when you debuted the finisher that really shocked and pleased the millions of people who were watching.

S: Yeah. Not only them, but a lot of people in the office themselves were amazed and surprised by it. But then again it was still a lot of veterans, that were more or less shocked and worried that the young talent was going to come and take wrestling to a new era.

EG: And actually might get people to watch it on tv and buy tickets.

S: Really. Instead of seeing somebody lay around on their back with a headlock and holding onto it until the guy gives up.

EG: Did they tell you why they wanted to get you onto a team rather than going as a single?

S: They never told me why. Never said anything. They just threw us together. And I never questioned it because I didn't want to start nothing. But I felt it was because I was climbing the ladder of success too quickly and too fast. They weren't ready to make me a champion and they weren't ready to do nothing with me. But then again with the kind of talent and the people they had me wrestling with, I couldn't see why I couldn't be the U.S. or TV champion or something.

EG: Yeah. It also seemed they were doing everything possible just to get Bagwell over because it seemed he needed a lot more experience to get over.

S: I felt Bagwell was dying off working as a single. His stuff wasn't believable. People weren't behind him. They liked him because he was always being the pretty boy, good looks, good body. But as far as overall wrestling, he didn't do nothing. He's always done the same thing. It never changed. And after a while the people can tell you what he's going to do. And if they can do that, then that ain't wrestling.

EG: Did they give you any reason why they took the belts back so quickly?

S: No. Dusty Rhodes said, hey look, you guys got the belts for one day. You go out, you celebrate, you party, because tomorrow I'm taking them back. That was his comment, and that's all he said. No reason why; not building up to nothing. They said we were trying to throw the people a little curve, give them the belt and then turn around and drop them. But first of all, the people already knew it. So why even do it? Then to make it so bad, we did the tv taping down in Columbus, Ga., won the belts down there, and then turned around and didn't get the belts for another two weeks, or whatever it was. And then when we did get the belts, we got the belts at the building, five or ten minutes before it was time to go out. So I told them the belts really didn't mean nothing, and it never did because we didn't even have them. We just wore the belts out to the ring just to give them back to the Nasty Boys who I thought really didn't deserve them. The Nasty Boys were good and all that, but I didn't think they should come in, get the belts right away and be able to hold them. A lot of the good matches they had were against me and Bagwell, or Cactus Jack and Maxx Payne. I mean, there's only been three or four guys other than that they can really work with and have a good match with.

EG: Who were the better people to work under in WCW?

S: That's really hard to say. Everybody has their own different style of wrestling. Me, myself, I don't think that the organization is really doing a whole lot now that Flair's in there. I thought they had done more when Dusty was in. I thought they did good when Watts was in there. Watts was a hard-ass. Watts would fine you for anything. But the thing is, a lot of people showed up on time. And people weren't doggin' it as much. Then they were more willing to go out and give it their all on tv, or their all in a house show I think when Bill was in office. When Dusty came in office, I felt he was just more or less worrying about keeping himself alive and keeping his son on top then really worrying about the business itself and what he could do with it. He really wanted to build around what he used to have, and not what he has sitting in front of his face.

EG: When WCW had a show about a year or so ago in the Paramount. You were on the card, but you didn't do any flying moves. That was one of about a million and one things that annoyed people. Maybe you could tell us a little bit about what happened during that show.

S: I'd like to tell all the fans out there that I apologize because Scorpio is a high flyer. And if it was not for the office I would have been flying all over that ring. Because what other place is there to be but in the Big Apple, high-flying around for everybody to see? I felt that I was grounded, and couldn't really do nothing great, and we got beat by a couple of guys that I felt we could have beaten with no problems, one hand tied behind our backs. The only guy that we would have to worry about that was even impressive, that was more of a man than probably half the guys in the WCW, was Steve Austin. But then again he was in the same situation that I felt that I was in, trying to carry the team, trying to keep Flyin' Brian alive. Flyin' Brian was good once upon a time, but I felt he was killing himself off. It goes back to who's in the office. Why don't you give the people what they paid to see? My thing is I don't care if three people paid and they're the only three people there in the audience. Don't tell me I can't go out there and do what I want to do and I can't fly. Because if they paid their money to come and see that, that's what I'm going to do.

EG: One thing I wanted to ask you about too, is I understand you were an actual witness to the fight that broke out between Sid Vicious and Arn Anderson in a hotel in England.

S: To start out, let's back up. I came down the steps and I heard all this banging and commotion going on. Sid and Arn are in the corridor. There was blood everywhere. Sid is sitting there, you know he's punchy, and Arn's kicking him and stuff; I see him sticking him with something. At this given point in time I really didn't know what it was or what was going on. But with me not thinking and all this going on, I just stepped in the middle of them and pushed them apart. Sid tried to come back at him. I held Sid off, and Sid ran out the back door, ran around through the front. Arn went to his room, bleeding all over. Sid was bleeding. Ambulance came. But the thing that really got me the most is they told me to go ahead and go to the hospital with them, and Richard Steinberg, who is the merchandise man, is there. Now you got a guy that's in charge. You got somebody in the office-you got a suit there. Why the heck are you going to send me or send somebody else to the hospital with all this stuff that's going on? Especially, when it comes down to it, WCW really doesn't want nothing to do with me. Sid seemed to be getting the best of Arn down there. If you ask me, they say there was a pair of scissors involved and Sid had them. I think it was Arn or somebody that came up with the scissors first. There was a lot of stuff that had been thrown around. Lot of things said. But I know what I had seen.

EG: That's pretty much what Sid's version of the story is. Arn, to my knowledge, has not really given an interview or made any statement on this, although I know he was attempting some kind of legal action.

S: I heard that he was trying to do some kind of legal suit. I also heard that Arn said that he doesn't know what happened when it came to the scissors part. He thought that Sid had the scissors first. But then again you got to look at what type of man Arn Anderson is and where he comes from. Who is the crowd of people and the folks that he hangs out with all of his life? And half of them folks that he hung out with was bigots. And to tell me that he's going to be caught over in Germany and be caught anywhere walking around without some kind of a weapon against somebody that's six-eight or six-ten, I can't believe it. So therefore I have to question that. And then again, this is just my opinion.

EG: There was a question of whether Sid had come down with a chair leg. I don't know if you saw any of that.

S: Yeah, I saw the chair leg. I saw the busted up chair. I mean, a lot of it was down there by Arn's room. You know, the chair did come out of Sid's room. Arn said that Sid hit him in the face with the chair. He fell back, and the next thing you know he was coming up with the scissors. My story was I heard that Arn opened up the door, Sid hit him with the chair half-way. Basically he hit the frame of the wall which broke up the chair. Arn fell back in the room, came up with the pair of scissors, stabbed Sid in the stomach, was coming after him, screaming, talking about "I'm gonna kill you, m-f this, I'm going to do you that..." This is Arn that I hear saying all of this. So then there's Sid who's down there, saying "Come on" and whatever. From what I hear from there Sid picked up another part of the leg, hit his hand, and he dropped the scissors. Sid got them and started sticking him. They fought from about the middle of the hallway all the way

down to the other. Blood all over and everything. When I came down the corridor I saw they were going at it. Full blown. The thing is I could say for Arn, if somebody six-eight is sticking you, somebody with size sixteen boots kicking you, and you're still standing on your feet, you're doing pretty good. Arn never went down, but Sid was on him. But when I pushed them apart and I broke them up, Sid had gone his way and Arn had gone back to his room. Ricky and everybody by that time had come down, wanting to go see about Arn. And Vader just happened to be downstairs in the lobby talking to the people. Sid came around full of blood and Vader just happened to grab him and held onto him. Then after that the police and everybody came. But the two guys that went to the office were not suits. I thought that somebody from the office should have gone down there when the first incident happened.

EG: It seems that most of the wrestlers sided with Arn even though Sid did go public with his story in an interview in the Wrestling Flyer newsletter.

S: The thing is, Sid was the type of guy who really didn't take no shit, who wanted everything. Then again, who doesn't? You know everybody wants to be on top. Sid was the type of guy who believed he was the best and wanted to be the best. There's nothing wrong with that.

EG: Maybe you can comment on WCW's drug policy.

S: Oh, well, WCW's got this drug policy where they say if you've been tested once for the drug then you have to go back and take another test, whatever the drug is, whether it be steroids, cocaine, amphetamines, marijuana, whatever. Then if your second test comes back positive, you have to go and pay for a class. They also suspend you without pay for about a week. The class usually costs you roughly anywhere between two and three thousand, four thousand dollars for however long the class might be or whatever your case might be. The third time that your test comes back positive, then they release you. The thing about their policy is, is only certain people at certain times and of certain colors, mostly have to take this test. I mean, if it's anybody that they want, if it's anybody that they like, there is no such thing as a drug test right away of anything. So, you know, it's real questionable about how strict their drug test is. Is it just for the people that they want to mess with? In my opinion I think their policy for the drug test is bullshit.

EG: In conclusion are there any other points you want to bring up?

S: Well, right now I just plan to keep on doing what I'm doing and satisfying the people, keep on high flying and hopefully I could be seen in a lot of these people's town and in a lot of these place on the little local shows before I turn around and settle down with any one of the major companies again. The IWC/AAA has got a lot of talent, it's got a lot of people in there who I've always wanted to work with. So that will give me a great chance to keep on showing off my high-flying ability. And maybe somebody out there will make me that champion that I need to be.

EG: Ok, I think that just about wraps it up. Too Cold Scorpio, we want to thank you very much for being with us on WBAI's Lightshow.

S: All right. Well, thank you much. And to all the folks out there listening to the Lightshow, hey, peace out, Scorp's in the house!

# AN INTERVIEW WITH THE GRAND WIZARD
BY: MIKE LANO (Mid- 70's)

ML: Can you give us some information on your background before becoming a manager?

GW: I started as a disk jockey in Ohio. When the local arena was built, I became announcer for professional wrestling, and I developed a love for the sport. Then I managed Ray Stevens and Donnie while doing my ring announcing. And then from there I was moved into a position as commentator for WFTV in Stubenville, Ohio- from there I did tv all across the country- Indianapolis, S.F., the network program that emanated out of Calgary. I did the commentary on that for several years, and then in the last 12-15 years I've been managing and found that it's my number one love. And it still is.

ML: How did your association with the Sheik actually begin?

GW: I have actually been friends with the Sheik for some twenty years, and have been professionally associated for the last eleven years. Of course we were friends first and then the princess had to retire (EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE ISSUE #55). The Sheik asked me to go on the road with him- to be a manager to travel with him and work for him. Naturally he came to me and I was only too happy to say "yes," and we've been together as a wrestler and manager. I can't be every place at once...it's just a case of where I'm needed the most. I went back to Detroit when Sheik had his big match at the Coliseum there with Dick the Bruiser- he did call me back for that match. We thought it was big enough, and important enough for me to be there, and otherwise we're on the phone several times a week. We see each other every other week in Toronto, sometimes staying for tv till Monday. We have enough time to talk together and be together and to still be, more or less, associated business-wise.

ML: Are you ever worried about the crowds?

GW: If I had my say-so, I would be back in the dressing room during all bouts. Truthfully, I don't like it too much up there on the apron during the bout- it's not the safest place in the world to be. In fact, when I first started up there, Mike, there was another manager who I will not name and after the Sheik and I worked our first night up there, we came back to the dressing room and he says, "boy, you got a lotta guts for a little guy?" And I'm not sure whether it's guts or whether I just lack brains, or what it is in that department; but we started out by my staying out there and the commission has never said, "go back in." As a result, I just do it out of force of habit. In some ways I do like to be near him, but only when you have the proper protection. And I feel in a lot of cities you don't have the proper protection so I don't like to stay out. All the years I was with the Sheik in Cobo Arena, I stayed out on every single match there- but there again you have the adequate protection. If you are protected- fine. If you're not- that's it.

ML: You really know how to rile a crowd up by passing salt and foreign objects...

GW: Mike, that is nothing more than a pack of malicious lies put out by jealous adversaries. It may be a form of mass hypnosis, or optical

illusions- you know an awful lot of people think they see flying saucers too, Mike!

The Sheik has the ability to psyche himself up before each and every match. I try to do the same thing myself. I try to psyche myself up for everything I do- I want to believe I'm doing it 100%, or else I don't want to do it. And I don't do it if I don't believe in what I'm doing. Many times on tv someone has told me, "Now I want you to say so-and-so, and such-and-such"; and I can't do that. If I find it foreign to what I usually say, I just will not say it or I will not do it.

ML: How is life on the road?

GW: Well, the need's got to be 50-50. Or 60-40. No less than that- it's got to be a mutual thing. When you're with a man, such as I with George Steele; George Steele is the last person I see at night before I go to bed. And he's the first person I see in the morning when I wake up. And we're constantly together, traveling through cities...so if you're not 100% compatible with that person, then there's no way you can be successful. You can't fly to some city, to meet the man, and then have him go off some other way and not be together. You've got to be together- it's got to be almost a marriage...a professional marriage in the wrestling world between you and your client.

ML: Tell us about the GW outside the ring.

GW: My hobbies? Seeing Broadway shows- which I thoroughly enjoy. I've never seen a bad show, either. Some are just better than others. I try to see every one of them every year. In fact, sometimes I find myself in a dilemma having to go back and see two of my favorites because I've already seen everything on Broadway. And I like to read- I read a great, great deal. I read on the plane when I'm travelling. I just enjoy reading. As far as other sports, the only other sport that I really enjoy is baseball. I'm very, very much of a baseball fan.

ML: All concerned wrestling fans have been worried about your throat...

GW: I had a throat condition that was being treated. Well, you saw me and heard me in Ca.- it sounded very much like I was doing an impression...it got worse in Ca., although I had it here. It was being treated before I went out there, and when I came back, my doctor, who is a throat specialist in Boston, Mass. took one look at it and said you're going into Mass. General, you are going to be operated on. I was operated on and thank goodness, it was a removal of a non-malignant tumor...my vocal chords were stripped and excess tissues removed and I think as you heard today, I'm back in FULL VOICE again, and very happy about the whole thing. Hurrah!

ML: What are your future plans, now?

GW: Keep on going as long as the good Lord will let me walk to that ring and be able to talk, and when I can't walk to the ring, I'll get myself a motorized wheelchair and I'll get down to that ring one way or another.

# AN INTERVIEW WITH LOU THESZ

BY: EVAN GINZBURG, EDDIE GOLDMAN & FRED GEOBOLD
WBAI-FM (99.5) NYC "LIGHT SHOW" 1/1/94

FG: With us on the air is the legendary and the immortal Lou Thesz.

ED (GOLDMAN): I would just like to give a little introduction. Lou Thesz was both the youngest and oldest man ever to hold the World's Heavyweight Championship. He began his wrestling career as an amateur in St. Louis and was later trained by the Olympic champion, Coach George Tragos. He won his first professional heavyweight championship in 1937 by defeating Everett Marshall. he held the World Heavyweight Championship six times through 1966 and through part of his career was managed by the legendary Ed "Strangler" Lewis. He has wrestled professionally in seven decades. He is recognized in Japan as the father of professional wrestling. He is considered by many to be the best professional wrestler of all time. Wrestling fans, WBAI is proud to have as our guest on this New Year's Eve, Lou Thesz...

LT: Good morning. Very happy to be here.

ED: Maybe you could give us some highlights of your career...

LT: Well, my father was a Greco-Roman wrestler in Hungary and he was an amateur- never turned into a professional. He emigrated to the U.S.. He began to coach me when I was eight years of age in St. Louis, then I joined the amateur ranks at 14. At 17 I was a professional wrestler. In the depression years- at the time everyone in this country was hungry. This country was really in trouble. Anyway, I met some wonderful people along the way, like Ed "Strangler" Lewis, Ray Steele, and many, many other fine wrestlers. They coached me and were very magnanimous people- just very generous. They teach you their craft and there's no way you can pay anyone for that sort of knowledge. They either wish to do it or do not. I traveled all over the world and wrestled more than six thousand times and trained at least as many times. I've logged like ten or fifteen million miles from flying and just enjoyed it very much. I just wish I could do it all over again.

EG (EVAN GINZBURG): Lou, you mentioned Strangler Lewis- can you tell us about him and some of the other great champions you've met and how you feel that stand in terms of history?

LT: Well, Ed "Strangler" Lewis- that actually wasn't his real name. He copied it after another wrestler, Evan Lewis. However, he was from Wisconsin and his name was Robert Fredericks. He was of German extraction. He wrestled very actively as a professional at age 15 if you believe that. Did very well taking on all-comers in circuses and carnivals. He emerged as the undisputed heavyweight champ of the world and that was right after the Frank Gotch era. As we evaluate him, most of the people that are knowledgeable about wrestling agree that Ed was at the top of the heap and he and a couple of others had some great, great matches over the years. For being consistent and hanging in there and doing it all of his adult life, we've all chosen him as being the undisputed best that we've ever produced in this country.

ED: How would you compare the state of wrestling today to when you got involved?

LT: Well, when I first got in, I got in at the tail end of the credible wrestling era. That was Strangler Lewis, Farmer Burns, Joe Stecher. I met those people and many other names most people wouldn't recognize. About eight or ten years into my career the show business thing came into the game. The post-World War II era was the Gorgeous George era. His real name was George Wagner. He was actually a pretty decent wrestler but he came up with a gimmick. Bob Hope helped him a lot. I talked to Bob Hope about that. That kicked off the show biz situation and today from there we regressed into a situation- what the major promotions are presenting today is choreographed tumbling . It's not even related to wrestling. A lot of the moves they make are not even related to wrestling. They're not wrestling moves. I got very disenchanted with that of course. I'm involved with the UWFI in Japan which is straight wrestling. That's what I enjoy doing because that's the way I was coached. In the UWFI it just wouldn't be feasible to go out there and do some of the crazy stuff they're doing today. Off the ropes and so forth. These people have not used tv as a springboard or a showcase at all- they use printed matter and perhaps some radio. And they draw 46,000 people in a ballpark! The reason it's successful is people are well-educated with concession holds. When one of these holds are secured, the people jump up. They know exactly what's happening. It's been nothing but a success story. I think they've had 36 promotions at the time and all have been sell-outs. That tells you something. Hopefully they're going to bring it to this country besides Pay Per Views. I hope to be part of the promotion.

EG: How do you feel U.S. promotions can learn from the Japanese?

LT: (laughs) They should get the tapes and watch them! If we're not careful they're going to not only take over the automobile industry, they're going to sell wrestling back to the U.S., which we originally coached them with because they weren't originally freestyle oriented. Some of the things they're producing here now- someone must be having nightmares! They come in with clown suits and painted faces and crazy antics. Whatever gimmicks they can think of- ridiculous or stupid as they want to make them. That's their business of course. But the general public is not watching it anymore which I can understand. What they call wrestling is for children.

FG: I can recall when Madison Square Garden didn't allow children under 14 for wrestling.

LT: I didn't know that.

FG: These days I don't think anyone over 14 would be interested.

LT: That's about right. In St. Louis when I was reared in this game we call wrestling, some of the ringside seats were black tie people that had just come from dinner. Now you see a bunch of kids just like a nickel movie with popcorn. It's regressed to that and that's a shame because there are some good wrestlers out there but the promoters weren't letting them do their thing.

EG: We met in St. Louis at Mike Lano's Sam Muchnick Convention and Roast. How would you compare a Sam Muchnick's style of promoting to a Vince McMahon?

LT: Sam was originally a baseball writer and a pretty solid, serious man.

# THESZ-LONGSON BOUT REGARDED BY FANS AS THE "WORLD SERIES" OF WRESTLING

WRESTLING fireworks are never at a premium when Lou Thesz and Wild Bill Longson tangle, and their coming meeting, at Kiel Auditorium on Friday, June 17, promises to put the Fourth of July into the new class of pyrotechnics.

Their matches always have been "naturals." In fact, as far as St. Louis is concerned, the local fans would rather see Thesz (hero) and Longson (villain) exchange holds and grimaces than any other pair in the business.

Some of the biggest crowds in history have turned out to see the two come to grips. This next face-off is something of a "rubber" match in as much as both Thesz and Longson hold victories. over the other.

Thesz, the larrupin' St. Louisian who's been the head man in the sport on several occasions, won the last bout from the Wild one, last July in Indianapolis. The burly Longson, however, has been angling for another shot at handsome Lou ever since.

What happens on June 17 is anybody's guess but it promises to be a lulu. For one thing the two are exponents of styles that are extremely different.

Longson specializes in pile-drivers, kindling-wood splits, over-the-top-rope leaps and wrestling skullduggery in general, as compared with Thesz' scientific approach and hard-to-equal speed in the ring.

Both have climbed to the top from different paths. A student at Cleveland High, Lou, a son of a cobbler, caught the wrestling bug in his gym classes and everything he's done has been pointed to one thing, the top in wrestling.

**Bill Meets Jack Dempsey**

Longson first tried his hand at boxing before findng his niche in the mat game. He intended to keep on with boxing until Jack Dempsey kayoed Bill. That changed his mind.

A former track star at Utah, U, Longson didn't have easy going once he started wrestling. He took on Man Mountain Dean in one of his first starts, and it almost proved to be his last. The Mountain fell on him and broke his back. It put him out of commission for a year, but it didn't stop him.

He came back and got even. He met Dean again and broke his leg. That's what kind of a guy Longson is, and Thesz knows it. Yes, it should be some some match!

# WRESTLING CARD

## FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Comfortably Cool—Air-Conditioned
**KIEL AUDITORIUM**
14th and Market

**MAIN EVENT**
One Fall To A Finish

Lou **THESZ** Wrestling's Greatest Mat Star, St. Louis, Mo. (238) **Vs.** Wild Bill **LONGSON** Most Feared Foe, Salt Lake City, Utah. (243)

Winner Lou Thesz Time_____
Referee_____ Hold_____

**SEMI-FINAL** (One Fall 30-Minute Time Limit)

Sandor **SZABO** Santa Monica, Cal. (236) **Vs.** Cowboy Dutch **HEFNER** Sherman, Tex. (236)

Winner_____ Time_____
Referee_____ Hold_____

**SPECIAL ATTRACTION** (One Fall 20-Minute Time Limit)

Geo. (Kayo) **KOVERLY** St. Louis and Hollywood. (237) **Vs.** George **HOLMES** Hollywood (229)

Winner_____ Time_____
Referee_____ Hold_____

**SECOND BOUT** (One Fall, 20-Minute Time Limit)

Warren **BOCKWINKEL** St. Louis, Mo. (243) **vs.** Joe **DUSEK** Omaha, Neb. (235)

Winner_____ Time_____
Referee_____ Hold_____

**OPENING BOUT** (One Fall, 20-Minute Time Limit)

Carlos (Babe) **RODRIGUES** St. Louis and Mexico City. (233) **vs.** Joe **MILLICH** St. Louis, Mo. (235)

Winner_____ Time_____
Referee_____ Hold_____

Starting time of curtain-raiser, 8:30.
All officials to be named at ringside by Col. Charles P. Orchard, Chairman of the Missouri State Athletic Commission.

# CANADIAN WRESTLING NOTES

By Barry Lloyd Penhale

**The Best Matches I Witnessed In 1952**

(As selected by Barry Lloyd Penhale of Canada)

The following matches are the best wrestling bouts witnessed by this writer during the year 1952. These matches are not listed in any particular order, although the Thesz - Watson match which is listed first, was definitely the best match of all.

**Single Matches**

Lou Thesz versus Whipper Billy Watson—These two great Champions met twice and their bouts were the best two matches I have ever seen. (Sensational wrestling.)

Fred Atkins versus Yukon Eric — Rugged, talented Australian against the unbelievable power and size of the giant Alaskan.

Lee Henning versus Whipper Watson—Roughness and brutality of former Pacific Coast Champ against the speed and cleverness of the British Empire Champion.

Dick Raines versus Jack Pesek—"Filthy Richard's" power, toughness and experience against the speed and mat science of youthful Pesek.

Herb Larson versus Bill Stack—Straight science against science. Hammerlocks against drop kicks.

Toar Morgan versus Tiger Tasker—Strength and scientific wrestling of former Marine against the trickery and toughness of the Canadian mauler.

Lord Athol Layton versus Bobo Brazil—Size, power and judo chops of the Englishman against the flying head scissors and head butts of the speedy Brazil.

Ray Clarke versus Kenny Ackles —Power and good wrestling of the New Zealander against Kenny's speed, skill and trickery.

Abe Zvonkin versus Warren Bockwinkle — The crafty, hard working Zvonkin against a great veteran matman. Flying tackles against leg scissors.

Ray Villmer versus Lou Plummer—Lightning speed and science against the bull like tactics of the big Texan.

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| CANADA AIR | $6.00 US | $35.00 US |
| EUROPE AIR | $8.00 US | $45.00 US |

he and myself started approximately the same time in St. Louis- and he worked for a man named Tom Packs. Packs was a very solid, very serious promoter. He had a lot of good wrestlers, not a bunch of people that are taught to tumble. Sam is very, very aggressive, but very serious and conservative. Aggressive but conservative- that may sound crazy but he did a great, great job and we still talk once or twice a week. A great, great promoter and he's one of the best we ever had and later when my father bought part of the promotion, he was my partner and it was a wonderful relationship and we still have that which says something also.

ED: One of the things you talked about earlier was the connection in the past between amateur and professional wrestling-how people like yourself and Verne Gagne had tremendous amateur credentials. Verne, I believe was a member of the U.S. Olympic team On a historical note, Farmer Burns was a professional around the turn of the century who trained the legendary Frank Gotch who became World's Heavyweight Champion. Also to his credit, he was one of the people who helped start high school wrestling in this country so there's a direct historical link between amateur and professional wrestling of many years ago which had been down through the years. For those like myself and Fred Geobold who wrestled in high school, I wasn't always aware of that. It seems today if a person has those credentials the organizations here aren't interested in them and they have to go to Japan. The UWFI has people like Dan Severin & Gary Albright and even someone like Bad News Allen who was a medalist in Judo from Canada can't get work here in the circus promotions.

LT: I wasn't aware of that...

ED: That's in Mike Chapman's Encyclopedia of American Wrestling. That's a link that has to be re-established that would be to everybody's benefit.

LT: Right. That's exactly right. And they're doing very well over there. Not only are they doing well, they are so well received. And the promoters were very happy to have them of course- actually it's a free farm club for them. They get some great wrestlers who have been developed and they haven't invested anything in them. They can just put them out there.

FG: Here, when we do get a fine wrestler like Mike Rotunda out of Syracuse, they make him into a villainous IRS agent.

LT: Mike is one of the best wrestlers ever to come out of that school. Probably the best. Mike is a very, very fine wrestler and I just wish he were out there doing his thing, and perhaps he will again one day.

ED: And then there's the problem with steroids. There's some other wrestlers who I'm not going to name, but some people may know this brother team that I'm talking about who also have great college wrestling credentials. As they go further and further in their wrestling careers you see less and less wrestling.

LT: Well, they've been mislead. Dangling that carrot in front of their nose- it's a little difficult to walk away from them. I know who you're thinking of and they're both fine wrestlers. They would be a hit in Japan. But that's the trend that we have here today and that's the reason we're doing so well at the box office.

WRESTLING

LOU THESZ

World's Heavyweight Champion

— vs. —

HOMBRE Montana

Pacific Coast Champion

Sandor Szabo—Tom Rinestau

— TAG TEAM MATCH —

George Bobby BECKER vs. Al John SMITH

Krippler Davis—Ramon Cernandez

Jungle Boy—Paul Matty

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6th, 1952

Olympic Auditorium

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St. Louis 1957

# THE PROGRAM

Kiel Auditorium, Friday, February 22nd, 8:30 p.m.

MAIN EVENT

(For the World's Heavyweight Championship)
(One Fall to a Finish)

LOU THESZ (World's Heavyweight Champion as Recognized by the National Wrestling Alliance) (232), LaJolla, Calif. vs. EDOUARD CARPENTIER (European Heavyweight Champion) (220), Paris, France

SEMI-FINAL

(One Fall, 30-Minute Time Limit)

BOB McCUNE (235), Hollywood, Calif. vs. BUDDY ROGERS (240), Camden, N.J.

THIRD MATCH — (Handicap Bout)

(45-Minute Time Limit)

FRITZ VON ERICH (265), Germany vs. BILL McDANIEL (250), St. Louis, Mo. and RAMON CERNADES (240) Argentina

SECOND MATCH — (Four-Man Tag-Team Bout)

(Two-Out-Of-Three-Falls, 45-Minute Time Limit)

GEORGE BOLLAS (275), Warren, Ohio and MIKE PAIDOUSIS (250) Steubenville, Ohio vs. BILLY DARNELL (225), Philadelphia and RICHARD BROWN (230), Kansas City, Kan.

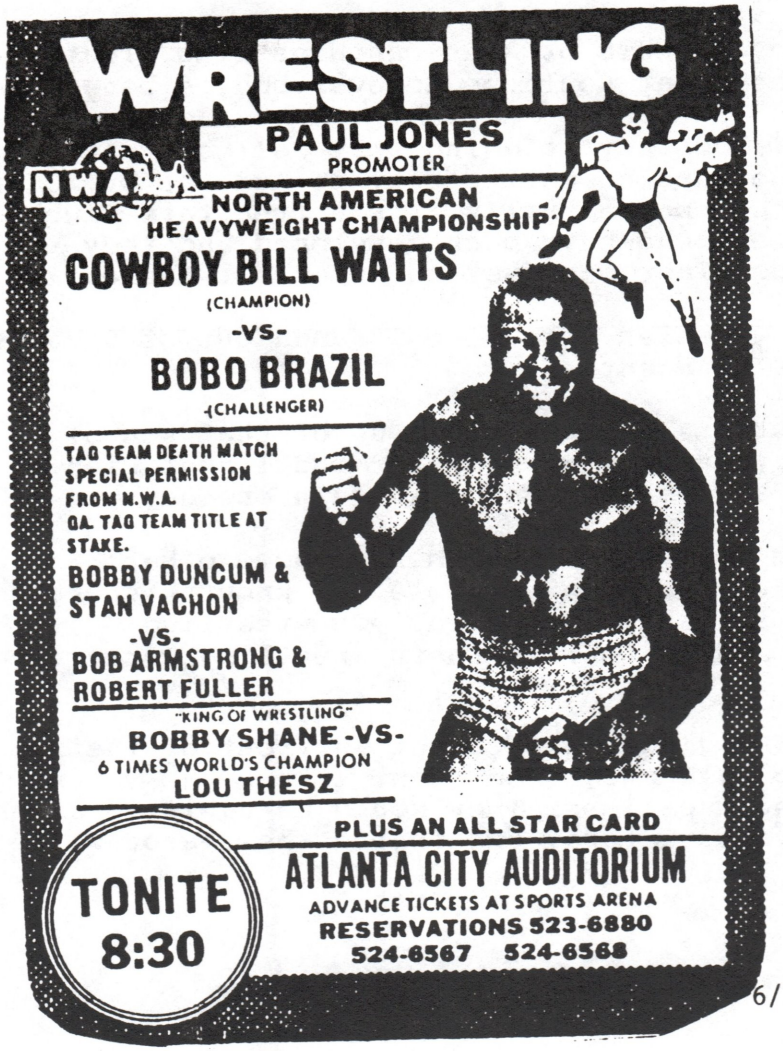
OPENING BOUT

(One Fall, 15-Minute Time Limit)

"RED" LYONS (230), Hamilton, Ont., Canada vs. STU GIBSON (240), Louisville, Ky.

Time of First Bout—8:30 P. M. Doors Open—7 P. M.

Advance ticket sale at Mezzanine 8, Arcade Bldg., 812 Olive St.; Kiel Auditorium; Stix, Baer & Fuller Westroads Store. For reservations or information, Phone GEneva 6-4400.




HONOLULU 6/9/57

## *Lolotai Holds Thesz To Draw in Mat Bout*

Al Lolotai, Hawaii's professional wrestling champion, won "a moral decision" by holding world's champion, Lou Thesz, 228, to a draw last night at the Civic Auditorium.

After the alloted one-hour period, Al Karasick asked that the match be extended 10 minutes but Thesz declined to continue.

The match was billed for the world's mat title.

Thesz used a backdrop on Lolotai, 230, to take the first fall in 36 minutes, 35 seconds.

Lolotai used headlocks and a press to even the count in 11 minutes, five seconds. Neither was able to score the deciding fall.

Jack Claybourne, 235, won the semifinal match from Hans Schnabel, 238, with headbutts in 15 minues, 55 seconds. Schnabel suffered a cut above an eye.

Tom Rice, 232, copped the special event from Sammy Berg, 235, in 19 minutes, 49 seconds when Berg was unable to continue in 20 seconds.

Kokichi Endo, 232, won the opener from Lord Layton, 260, on a disqualification. The time was 16 minutes, 20 seconds.

6/16/73

EG: Lou, this is a hypothetical question, but if you were to start a promotion today, what philosophies would you use? And particular wrestlers you would use in this country?

LT: I would just go back to the origin. We have good wrestlers here. I would take them and do the same thing that McMahon and Turner have done- Dangle some money in front of them. You don't have to tell them how to wrestle. They know how.

EG: Exactly how would you re-educate a U.S. audience who're accustomed to guys in clown suits?

LT: We'd have to resort to tv because we'd have to get the message across. Without the visibility you can't teach them of course. But it would take a couple of years- maybe more. It took a couple of years in Japan as straight as they were there to sell the product they have now. It would be a long, long haul, but I think it could be done. The people are really fed up with the stupid thing that they call wrestling today. We were very proud of what wrestling was, and I am very prideful again because the light at the end of the tunnel is there with the UWFI. Perhaps we can do it here. There's a lot of former wrestling fans who we've lost- and it's hard to get them back- but the UWFI would be successful.

EG: Lou, can you tell us about some of the legends you met in the ring? Any memories? Any anecdotes?

LT: Well, I even wrestled the great Ed "Strangler" Lewis a couple of times. He was a great man. But the thing that I liked about pro wrestling so much was that it took me around the world. I rubbed elbows with kings and presidents. It's been a wonderful, wonderful way of life. Like India. They had one great, great wrestler named Gama Singh. I wrestled him at a ballpark in Japan and had 40-50,000 people. Things like this are just really memorable. I had wrestled Rikidozan prior to that in Hawaii and I beat him there and the people in Japan thought he was a God- that nobody could beat him. Then when I arrived at the airport and I came out of there from Singapore and Australia. I was on a first name basis with the skipper by that time and they had ten or fifteen thousand people at the airport and I said to him, "The Prime Minister or someone must be coming in." He said, "No, they're here to see you!" I said, "You're kidding!" They were so impressed that I had beaten Rikidozan, they were at the airport. We had a big press conference. All of those things are memorable and some of them are very flattering but the thing is that I really enjoyed what I was doing. Once you get your teeth into something you really enjoy doing, then you can pour the midnight oil into it and just go, go, go. I just got a lot of compound benefits out of doing a lot of hard work and learning my craft. In Japan they appreciated it and when I wrestled Rikidozan in a ballpark, we sold that out. Those were the good years. The elegant hotels around the Orient. It was a wonderful way of life and it's just too bad I can't do it again (laughs), because the only thing is I'm too old and I have a replaced hip. I would like to, though.

FG: I have fond memories of your wrestling Dick the Bruiser in Indianapolis.

LT: Oh, yeah...Dick. He was a big roughneck. Not tall...but he was a husky guy.

FG: About 5'10, 260 as I recall...

LT: And he was a football player- played for the Green Bay Packers. Wrestled in the off-season and so forth. A great attraction.

FG: Those who were educated to believe that Hulk Hogan is a wrestler probably aren't aware of this, but a low center of gravity is something of an advantage in wrestling.

LT: Well, Hogan is a musician. He's a good marketer. A wrestler- no. He marketed himself very well so far as wrestling ability, you can forget that. You don't become a wrestler pumping iron in the gym. I do some of that too. If you're going to do that, you better learn how to wrestle too, if you're going to be billed as a wrestler. As a wrestler I'd probably give him a zero but as a marketer I'd probably give him a 10.

EG: Along those lines if a Dory Funk, Jr. or a Jack Brisco or even a Lou Thesz came along in 1994 would they attain the same level of success in this country the way wrestling is marketed?

LT: No, not the way promoters are pushing it, but the minute you would bring credibility here, they would do very, very well. That's the way it was done in the past and it could be that way again.

ED: I believe the UWFI champion Nobohiko Takada would have tremendous appeal in this country. I know in Japan he's almost regarded as a matinee idol.

LT: In fact all the wrestlers and all the promotions met in a short convention and they all elected him as the best wrestler of the past fifty years. He's a great athlete. He does a very good job. He could kick a hold through a brick wall- he's a martial arts wrestler. Very good on the mat, but he does the kick thing too. He's done very, very well. At the Cauliflower Alley Club a few years ago. I introduced him as the best wrestler in Japan, and now he may be the best wrestler in the world.

EDITOR'S NOTE: At this point we went to the phones and took a dozen or so calls. As many dealt with (no longer current) WCW or WWF questions. I'll instead provide Lou's comments on a variety of subjects & wrestlers).E.G.

LOU THESZ ON:

RIC FLAIR- Ric Flair is a fine wrestler. He does his own thing and he does it very well. He isn't dominated by WCW or anyone but himself.

WCW- I'd like to see them promote more wrestling and less show business.

MUTA- He's good but he's not in the same competitive class Takada is. No way, no...he's a good acrobat.

FUJINAMI- Fujinami's a very good wrestler, very good.

VINCE McMAHON- He could learn from Japanese promotions but I don't know if he wants to. They're doing pretty well with their toys and dolls and marketing the things they sell, but as far as being a wrestling promotion- No. He could certainly learn a lesson from watching some of these matches, but apparently he isn't interested in that and they're promoting a circus. That's what they're doing. They're not selling wrestling. The cable and marketing- that's where the money is. The tv is a vehicle to sell their stuff. Other people have made some attempts to help them in this situation, but they're going to have to help themselves.

VADER- What you do to chop down a big tree, you take him down from the bottom. You take those legs out from under him. A turtle is very strong too, but unless you help him up, he'll lie on his back. It's a matter of learning to wrestle, learning your craft and if you wrestle a fellow like Vader you take him off his feet. You speed it up a little, they run out of gas.

STAN HANSEN- Never wrestled him. I know him very well...no, I never got hit by a lariet- that isn't wrestling either. I like Stan too, but we're talking about wrestling.

INDEPENDENTS- They're sitting in a very poor seat. To begin with, the major groups in this country have the cable and tv locked up. The over-exposure that wrestling has had all over the country leaves them in a very poor spot. People are saturated with wrestling they can see on the tube for nothing and it's very difficult for the independents to make it. I don't know of any independents in this country that's making money and if they are there are very few bucks there. They're very ambitious people and I do nothing but compliment them in trying to get wrestling back where it once was. It's a tough road- an uphill ride. Years ago you probably had 100 wrestling cards a night. That was good farm club which we don't have today. These people are going to have a difficult time bringing the talent in to pay them because of the over-saturation on tv. By the time you pay your transportation for the men coming in and the hotel bills and what not, and give them the piece of the house which of course they are entitled to, most of them are going to be losers. It's going to be like playing hopskotch is what they're doing. I hope they make it- I would like to help them.

ANTONINO ROCCA- Really not a died in the wool wrestler. Again, that's how they (the promoters) educated the fans on television.

MASA CHONO He wrestled me two years ago. I coached him a couple of week when he came through Norfolk, Va. by way of Germany.

HIROSHI HASE- I know him quite well. He's a good wrestler.

ON STARTING A NEW PROMOTION- I would sell the general public a contest. That would be the way to start it. Get that story across. I believe that would be a cornerstone. That's exactly what I'd like to do here with the UWFI.

# WRESTLING

## FRIDAY JULY 3 8:30 P.M. 1966 TX.

### A LEO GARIBALDI SUPER SPECTACULAR HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

## THE CARD

**MAIN EVENT**
FOR THE WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

**LOU THESZ** CHAMPION 225 lbs., St. Louis, Missouri **vs.** **ERNIE LADD** CHALLENGER 325 lbs., Orange, Texas

2 out of 3 falls—90 min. time limit

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**SEMI-FINAL TAG TEAM MATCH**

**Skull Von Stroheim** 240 lbs., West Germany
**Kurt Von Stroheim** 240 lbs., West Germany

**Dakota Mack** 300 lbs., Wild Rice, No. Dakota
**CICLON NEGRO** 245 lbs., Mexico

2 out of 3 falls - 45 min. limit

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**TITO CARREON** 210 lbs., **vs.** **KILLER KARL KOX** 250 lbs., Omaha, Nebraska

1 fall—20 min. time limit

**ADDED EVENT**

**Ali Bey** 208 lbs., Turkey **Duke Keomuka** 218 lbs., Honolulu, Hawaii

**OPENER**

YOUNG PAUL JONES THE MUMMY

Both . . . 1 fall—15 min. time limit

**"MR. WRESTLING" PAUL BOESCH GUEST REFEREE**
Referee - Marvin Jones

5-22-52 L.A.

11-12-52

# Thesz Risks Title Against Rocca Tonight

BY JACK GEYER

To the strains of that popular song, "It Takes Two to Tangle," Lou Thesz, world's champion grunt and groaner, and Argentina Rocca, a young man who gets a kick out of his work, will pick up some pin money and each other in a three-fall, two-hour time limit title match tonight at the Olympic Auditorium.

The show begins at 8:30 p.m. and the ticket wickets will open at 6 p.m. in order to accommo-

Illustrated on Page 2, Part IV

date the expected full house of 10,400 fanatics.

Due to circumstances over which they have complete control, the management has announced there will be no telecast nor broadcast.

Both of the matadors are cards drawing cards.

When Thesz defeated a hairy individual named Baron Leone at Gilmore Field last spring in a titular exhibition, 22,256 citizens departed with $103,277.75 to observe the proceedings.

Rocca, who performs barefooted, packed Madison Square Garden, Dec. 13, 1949, when 17,854 New Yorkers plunked down more than $50,000 to get inside.

Read The Times

# Thesz Defeats Leone for World Mat Crown

## 25,256 See Idols Mix at Gilmore

GARY ALBRIGHT- He's doing very well over there. In my opinion he's the best Greco-Roman wrestler we have around today. I saw him when we drew 46,000 in a ballpark. He wrestled a Russian named Hashimikov. And this Russian is a four times Gold Medal winner and really a super wrestler. And Gary didn't have too much of a problem with him and that really sold me on him.

STEINERS- Very good wrestlers. Both of them. I know Rick very well. I know Rick better than his brother. They're both very good wrestlers. They know the basics very well.

RACISM IN WRESTLING- I think that anything like racial situations that are created or hyped in any athletic event are completely out of line because our athletes come from various ethnic groups, colors, creeds and from every country in the world. How can we possibly use a thing like a racial slur against a wrestler or anything connected with it? I just can't understand it. Racial slurs have nothing to do with sports. Particularly competitive sports and I don't understand it. I just don't. We had one Black wrestler years ago- Luther Lindsay. A super, super wrestler. He died at an early age. I wrestled him a couple of times and was one of his biggest boosters. And not because he was Black or he was whatever, but because he was a good, good wrestler. And that's what we should do with every athletic event that's promoted. The racial situation to me has nothing to do with it. And if anyone that's Black or White or whatever gets out fo line they should eliminate them. Get them out. Keep it at what it should be- a great spectator sport.

RACIAL INCIDENT/BRAWL- CLINCH VALLEY COLLEGE 12/93- I'm disappointed in their people for instigating a thing like that because that's utter stupidity. Sometimes he (Cornette)'s a pretty wordy guy (laughs), but it's very unfortunate and it should never happen. We don't need these problems. We have enough problems without looking for them. It's just a shame that something like this would get out of hand. As difficult as it is for the independents to promote today, a thing like that won't help the situation.

WRESTLING'S IMAGE- Our image of course is important. Unless we have the right image, forget it. We seem to have lost it all. The behavior of so many of our people today is difficult to comprehend. It's certainly not going to help wrestling.

TED DIBIASE & BRETT HART- Both good wrestlers but I don't know if I'd put them in a class with the Steiners. I haven't' seem them recently so I couldn't say if I'm going to classify them I have to be very careful about that.

DAVID VON ERICH'S DEATH- I liked David very much. He was a very fine young man. I don't know if he was into the white stuff at all. I'm not sure. It seemed to be some kind of drug situation there. What it was I don't know. Sort of an O.D. thing. I don't know what happened. I wasn't there at the time. Those things do occur and when you start playing with that stuff you're playing with fire. And I don't understand getting into drugs or any narcotic of any kind because you're walking into a rigged Poker game. It's a no-win situation. There's no way you're going to make it when you get on drugs and why they do it the first time, I don't know.

INTERVIEW CONTINUED PG. 58

# SINGLE RING HOLDS 7 ACTS AT GARDEN

3/24/53

## Convenient Curfew Forces a Mat Draw in Thesz-Rocca Event Before 9,300

There was a seven-act show in a single ring at Madison Square Garden last night. It drew 9,300 spectators, who paid $29,553 to see dropkicks and tackles—not of the football variety—right hooks, left jabs, eye-gouging and slapping.

All these activities are not usually associated with any one sport. But professional wrestling, which was on display at the Garden, is the exception.

The feature brought together Lou Thesz of St. Louis and Antonino Rocca of Buenos Aires. Each took a fall, Rocca scoring first with a body slam in 30 minutes 50 seconds. Thesz needed only 7:19 to even the score with a leg and armlock. The third encounter had gone only 8 minutes 31 seconds when the 11 o'clock curfew stopped matters. Thesz weighed 228 pounds, Rocca 225.

In other exhibitions Buddy (Nature Boy) Rogers, 236, pinned Johnny Valentino, 238, in 8:31; Lu Kim, 200, defeated Adrian Baillargoon, 238, in 14:27; Raphael Halpern, 212, pinned Tiger Joe Marsh, 214, in 7:47; Vic Holbrook, 255, pinned Chuck Morgan, 296, in 13:13; Dick Shikat, 226, won from Lenny Montana, 242, on a disqualification in 8:08, and Clyde Steeves, 220, pinned Jack Rush, 205, in 15:14.


**MAT MARKETPLACE**

PRO WRESTLING'S MERCHANDISE & MEMORABILIA NEWSLETTER

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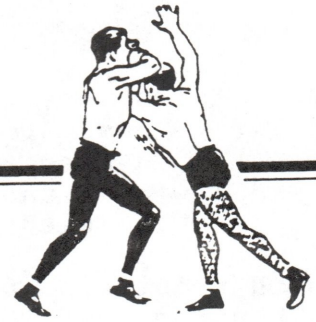

3/22/55

# Lou Thesz Beaten for World Crown

SAN FRANCISCO, March 22 (AP)—Leo Nomellini, 250-pound football tackle, tonight dethroned Lou Thesz as world heavyweight wrestling champion in the Cow Palace.

Thesz won the first fall. Nomellini won the next two in Leo's third attempt to take the title from Thesz, unbeaten since 1948 under the management of Ed (Strangler) Lewis.


**CHATTANOOGA, TENN.**
**Tuesday, August 8th** 1976

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ANY SEAT IN THE HOUSE **$1.00**

★ **PARADE OF STARS** ★

**Grudge Match**
BILL DUNDEE -VS- JIMMY VALIANT

LOU THESZ -VS- BOB ROOP

**Jr. Heavyweight Championship**
NELSON ROYAL-CHAMP -VS- JACK WELCH

**Southern Championship Title**
BOB ARMSTRONG -VS- JOE LEDUC

**6 MAN TAG TEAM**
Jimmy Valiant – Frankie Lane – Mike Bover
VS
Tommy Gilbert – George Weingeroff – Wayne Farris

**TAG TEAM**
Eddie Sullivan and Don Bass
VS
Bearcat Brown and Chief Bald Eagle

ATLANTA

12/18/64

**WRESTLING**
**FRIDAY, DEC. 18th**
**MAIN EVENT**

World Heavyweight Championship Match Title and Belt at stake. No time limit, no disqualification.

Lou Thesz VS. Ray Gunkel

TAG TEAM MATCH

The Medics VS. Sputnik Monroe and Rocky Smith

Freddy Blassie vs. Joe Scarpa

Free Turkeys — Free Pony

Adv. Tickets — JA. 3-6880

**City Auditorium**

# Lou Thesz Pins Foe in 3 Falls

World's champion Lou Thesz pinned Ray Gunkel in the third fall Friday night to retain his crown in the main wrestling event at City Auditorium.

In other matches, the Medics stopped Sputnik Monroe and Rocky Smith in a tag duel and the team of Don Fargo and Billy Strong won over Frankie Cain and Lee Fields in another.

Joe Scarpa won when Dick Dunn was disqualified and in the second main event, Freddie Blassie scored over newcomer Tony Bialorjon.

February 1, 1964 ST. LOUIS WRESTLING CLUB Subscription $1.00 per Season — Single Copy 15¢ Page One

# *"I'M THE BEST," "BRUISER" SAYS, "I'LL BEAT THESZ"*

## Title Bout Tops Great Program At Kiel Feb. 7

## RESULTS

CHICAGO — RAINBO ARENA — 3-20-53 — Lou Thesz defeated Sonny Myers; Hans Schmidt beat Bill Melby; Don Lee Jonathan and Stan Hollick beat Reggie Lisowski and Bill Sledge; in a tag midget match Toughie McRae won from Tom Thumb.

WOMEN'S WRESTLING- I'd like to make a point about the Japanese wrestlers. We don't have one female wrestler in the U.S. that wants to get in the ring with Japanese girls. In this country and I'm going to say something that's going to be very unpopular with the girl wrestlers, I've never known one female wrestler that could really wrestle. That really knew the basics of wrestling. Someone should have taught them but noone did. Years ago they would take the midgets and the bears and the girls on the card and package them together. That I thought was unfair though.

WEIGHT CLASSES- That could come back again. Years ago some of the middleweights drew very good houses. Some of the Junior Heavyweights did. Little by little they graduated to heavyweights and stayed with that. I think it's an error. Many times a middleweight wrestler pound for pound is better than a heavyweight.

HIGH-FLYING WRESTLERS- If they're fliers, they're not oriented in mat wrestling.

DEVELOPING YOUNG TALENT- What they're doing in Japan, they have a gymnasium and they work out all the time. They have a good coach, like Billy Robinson, the great wrestler from England who is over in Nashville, Tenn. coaching for the UWFI. That's what we need. To develop some talent and coaching must be done by someone who knows what they're doing.

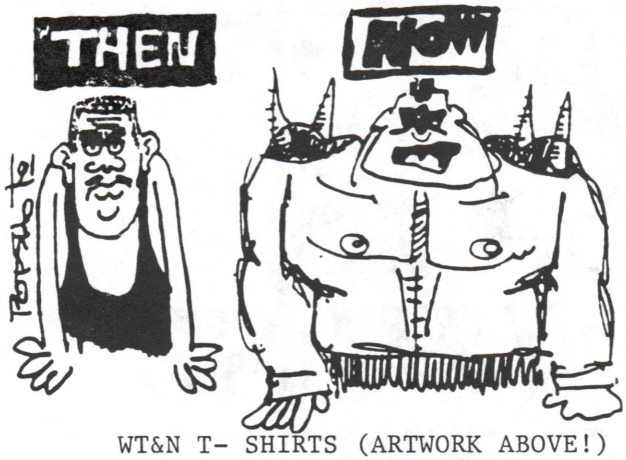
LES THORNTON- I think he lives in Ohio with his mother.

STING- I think Sting is a very good athlete and let's hope for the best for him.

FG: Gentlemen, we have to call it off. Lou Thesz, it has been an honor.

LT: Thank you very much. You're doing a great job...

FG: And we have been listening to Lou Thesz, one of the all-time greats...

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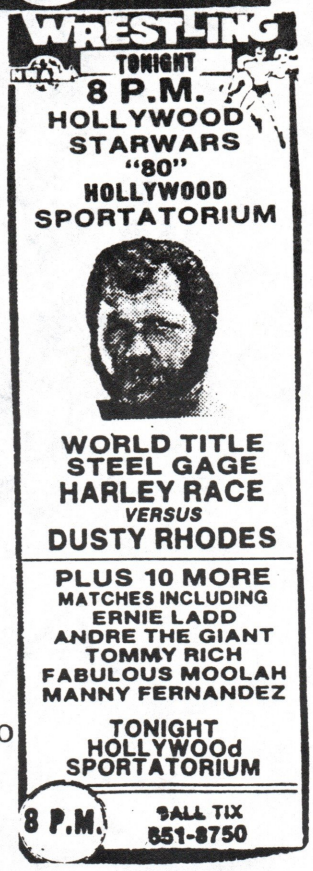
23- ADRIAN STREET INTERVIEW/Muchnick/Vancouver '70/Kiel '69
24- JOEL GOODHART INTERVIEW/Frank Gotch/Crybaby Cannon
25- BUDDY ROGERS TALKS ABOUT FLAIR/GEORGE SOUTH INTERVIEW
26- ITALLION STALLION INTERVIEW/Hawaii '67/Strange angles
27- SLAMMERS' VERNE LANGDON INTERVIEW/Memphis/'20's/Gama '35
28- SWEET DADDY SIKI INTERVIEW/Jack Pfeffer/Von Erichs
29- DALE PIERCE INTERVIEW/SuperStar's title history/D. Owen
30- BOB ORTON SR. INTERVIEW/Waldo Von Erich/J. Powers/W Munn
31- ED SHARKEY INTERVIEW/Tojo Yamamoto/Early 1900's battles
32- BABY DOLL INTERVIEW/ROGERS, J. VALENTINE & SHIRES TALK
33- BILL ANDERSON INTERVIEW/So. wrestling 70's/Chi. '82
34- LOU PEREZ INTERVIEW/Title '36/Ali meets G. George/Steele
35- RACISM IN WRESTLING- INTERVIEWS- SIMMONS/WHATLEY/ABBY
36- KILLER KOWALSKI INTERVIEW/Bill Watts in ring/The Sheik
37- BILL MILLER INTERVIEW/Ohio 70's/1932 wrestling expose
38- VAMPIRE CASANOVA INTERVIEW/Mid South 1986/Ga. title
39- SAM MUCHNICK TRIBUTE- INTERVIEWS WITH BRUNO/GAGNE/ROGERS
40- DESTROYER INTERVIEW/LA tv title/Del Kunkle/Backlund
41- IVAN KOLOFF INTERVIEW/Andy Kaufman/Ala./Tenn./WWWF
42- NELSON ROYALE INTERVIEW/Pacific Northwest/B. Rogers
43- BLACKJACK MULLIGAN INTERVIEW/Abby vs. Sheik/Carpentier
44- FRED BLASSIE, JIMMY DEL RAY & TIM HORNER INTERVIEWS
45- PAUL ROMA INTERVIEW/Australia 1960's/Clips 1930's
46- LOU THESZ AND FABULOUS MOOLAH INTERVIEWS/Bruno/Kowalski
47- OX BAKER INTERVIEW/Wrestling reunions/Detroit clips
48- WAYNE ST. WAYNE INTERVIEW/Brad Armstrong/Chi. 54 results
49- LANNY POFFO INTERVIEW/Amarillo '70's/Jr. Heavies/McShain
50- INTERVIEWS WITH SABU, STU HART, BRUCE HART, AKBAR/Trivia
51- TIGER CONWAY SR. IN HIS OWN WORDS/George Bush!/H. Race
52- INTERVIEWS WITH MIL MASCARAS, K. KOWALSKI, RAYO DE JALISCO
53- THESZ/PIPER/FLAIR/PATRIOT/BASTIEN/BRISCO/RON WEST SPEAK
54- SPUTNIK MONROE/TERRY ZELLER INTERVIEWS/Inside Texas



JOHNNY VALENTINE BY: WAYNE ST. WAYNE